

PROCEEDINGS

MS. REPORTER: We're on the record. We're here for the deposition of Mr. Kelso in the case of Avirgan and Honey v. Hull, and Avirgan and Honey v. Raul Villaverde. The time is now 9:23 on Monday, May 23rd, 1988.

My name is Mary Hardy; I'm working on behalf of Video-Script of Florida. And we'll begin with the appearances of the attorney.

MR. SHEEHAN: Yes. My name is Daniel Sheehan; I'm chief counsel for the plaintiffs, Tony Avirgan and Martha Honey in both of the captioned cases of Avirgan and Honey v. Hull, et al., and Avirgan and Honey v. Villaverde, et al.

MS. REPORTER: Okay.

MR. SHEEHAN: And I just -- I would like to make a notice on the record that all of the defendants in this case -- in both cases -- have been notified of the taking of this deposition. I re-notified a number of the defendants' counsels last Friday -- as recently as last Friday in Miami at the offices of Thomas Spencer, who is Mr. Singlaub's lawyer and the coordinating attorney -- communicating attorney -- for the rest of the defendants, that we would be appearing in Boulder



today to take the deposition of Mr. Kelso pursuant  
to the notice.

So we will be taking this deposition. And  
it is our position that this is admissible in  
evidence in both cases, whether the defendants or  
their counsel choose to appear for this deposition  
or not. So, we're prepared to proceed.

MS. REPORTER: All right. We'll swear the  
witness. Sir, would you raise your right hand?

Do you solemnly swear that the testimony you  
are about to give in this cause shall be the  
truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth,  
so help you God?

THE WITNESS: Yes.



1 JOSEPH R. KELSO, called as a witness,  
2 being first duly sworn in the above  
3 cause, testified on his oath as  
4 follows:

5 EXAMINATION

6 BY: MR. SHEEHAN:

7 Q Now, Mr. Kelso, could you state your full  
8 name and initials for the court, please?

9 A Joseph Robert Kelso.

10 Q And can you give us your date of birth?

11 A 9/18/56.

12 Q And what is your present address?

13 A 4101 Pecos, Denver.

14 Q Are you presently employed?

15 A Yes.

16 Q Can you tell us what your employment is?

17 A No. It's a private -- for a private  
18 company.

19 Q Okay. And it's in the area of what?  
20 Construction?

21 A Yeah. It's construction and --

22 Q Okay. But you can be reached through your  
23 address?

24 A Yes.

25 Q Okay. Now, Mr. Kelso, can you tell us



1 whether or not there came a point in time when you  
2 traveled to the country of Costa Rica?

3 A That's correct. And --

4 Q Now, when was that?

5 A That was in the winter of -- January,  
6 February; in that time period -- of '86.

7 Q And is it in fact true that you went there  
8 working in connection with a federal agency; an agency  
9 of the United States government, working in  
10 cooperation/coordination with such an agency?

11 A That's correct.

12 Q Were you there in Costa Rica undertaking to  
13 investigate the activities of, and to discover the  
14 whereabouts of a particular individual that was wanted  
15 by United States authorities?

16 A That's correct.

17 Q Could you tell us about that, please, and  
18 what your purpose was there, who the person was, and  
19 what you were doing, generally, for the court?

20 A Well, leaving from the operations in London  
21 where I was posted after an incident, they decided to  
22 have me do a change of venue from London. I went into  
23 Holland, tracking a gentleman named Dennis Mack, also  
24 a/k/a Dennis Foley. And there's -- you know, the list  
25 goes on.



1 Q Yes? You mean of his aliases?

2 A Yeah.

3 Q Okay. But this is Mr. Dennis Mack. How do  
4 you spell that?

5 A Well, the one way to spell it -- and he's  
6 got many different versions of that -- is "M-A-C-K".

7 Q Okay. And what was he wanted for by United  
8 States authorities?

9 A Manufacturing speed and laundering money.  
10 There's murder charges. You know, numerous --

11 Q Okay.

12 A -- numerous categories.

13 Q So that it would have been the -- was it the  
14 Drug Enforcement Administration and the Justice  
15 Department and who -- United States Customs and others  
16 --

17 A Right. And Marshalls.

18 Q And the U.S. Marshall Service?

19 A Right.

20 Q Okay. And you were in communication with  
21 these authorities of the United States?

22 A Yes.

23 Q And they had asked you to undertake to  
24 capture this man or find his whereabouts and report it  
25 to them?



1 A Yes.

2 Q Okay. So, describe for us if you  
3 briefly, the -- from the point of origin of  
4 been given this assignment by United States  
5 governmental authorities, what steps generated  
6 to find this man that led you to Costa Rica?

7 A Well, we -- one of the first things  
8 to go into his old place of business, which  
9 information on. Also dealt with the Hell's  
10 what's called the "Red Zone" of Amsterdam.

11 Q Okay.

12 A I was able to, through an artificial  
13 created contact, get into the Hell's Angels  
14 (phonetic) -- myself and my partner, and make  
15 inquiries. And went and bolstered a relationship  
16 approximately a week.

17 The third contact with the Hell's Angels  
18 over there, he proceeded to tell us where  
19 known whereabouts where he thought Dennis  
20 was up in Sweden. So, I was able to contact  
21 agent up in Sweden for him to do the legwork.

22 Q Was this another agent of the  
23 government?

24 A Yes, of the government.

25 Q Okay.



1           A       And we also had some people work  
2       Bagawan's (phonetic) operations in Germany.  
3       same time, we had that agent go up and do r  
4       relating with Dennis Mack and the Bagawan,  
5       other connections in that area. U.S. Cust  
6       for a meeting with DEA at the embassy The  
7       to look at the Dennis Mack file, which --

8           Q       This is at the United States em  
9       Hague?

10          A       Yeah. At the embassy. Which -  
11       maintain the largest file on Dennis Mack.  
12       total access and totally reviewed to this  
13       which led me to a few more stray bits of i  
14       From there I left and returned. The --

15          Q       That's to London?

16          A       No, no, no.

17          Q       Or, to where?

18          A       Back to Amsterdam.

19          Q       Okay.

20          A       Which -- the DEA agent which t  
21       that file was very disgruntled when I lef  
22       worked for and who was paying my expenses  
23       a -- what's termed a "forest fire" in Was  
24       for about five days over that.

25          Q       Okay. What did he say to you



1 that he was upset?

2 A Well, he was upset because he thought  
3 working for Customs.

4 Q Yes?

5 A Because the telephone call and the  
6 to see the file came through Customs.

7 Q U.S. Customs?

8 A In this country.

9 Q In the States?

10 A Right.

11 Q Yes.

12 A Out of Portland, right into Washin  
13 and then from one director to the other direc

14 Q Okay.

15 A So -- and, you know, I denied dire  
16 involvement or surely Customs paying my exper  
17 And he was all upset because I was stationed  
18 London for so long, and he once again thought  
19 with Customs directly.

20 Q Yes?

21 A And so, he made some waves. Of c  
22 stepped on some toes when I was over there i  
23 also.

24 Q Yes?

25 A At the speed which is -- I was e



1 information. And then, we pulled out  
2 down to Belgium; re-grouped a little bit  
3 and then went down to Algeciras.

4 Q What's Algeciras?

5 A Algeciras is southern Spain  
6 supposed to make contact there at the  
7 going to Morocco.

8 Q Okay. And this is all in p  
9 Mack, this --

10 A Well, the --

11 Q -- federal fugitive?

12 A -- Morocco situation involv

13 --

14 Q Okay.

15 A -- that was breaking, and  
16 the very last moment.

17 Q Okay.

18 A Turned around and went up

19 Q Okay. So you're not --

20 A -- to make a contact with  
21 there.

22 Q Now, at approximately -- w  
23 of this Barcelona --

24 A I'd have to look through t  
25 notes. But, it was approximately ear



1 Q Of 1986?

2 A Of 1986.

3 Q Okay. So you arrived --

4 A Previous before going to Costa R

5 Q Okay. So you arrived in Barcelo  
6 searching for Dennis Mack, this United Stat

7 -

8 A No, no, no. No, no.

9 Q Okay.

10 A Not searching for Dennis Mack.

11 contact with another agent there.

12 Q Okay. There's another United St  
13 government agent?

14 A Yes.

15 Q Okay. You established contact  
16 this because you thought -- had reason to  
17 he would have some information about Denni

18 A Yes. He went and -- they pulle  
19 information there for me for pick-up.

20 Q Okay.

21 A And it was transmitted to that  
22 made contact there; picked it up and went

23 Q Okay. And, where did this info  
24 indicate Dennis Mack --

25 A South America --



1 Q -- was?

2 A -- Central America.

3 Q Okay.

4 A You know, I spent time in Panama; spent time  
5 in Costa Rica, focussing on that.

6 Q Okay.

7 A So --

8 Q And this exploration under guidance from  
9 United States government agencies seeking Dennis Mack  
10 led you, you say, in late January or early February of  
11 1986, to arrive in Costa Rica?

12 A That's correct.

13 Q Okay. And tell us from that point, when you  
14 arrived in Costa Rica, what steps did you take to  
15 maintain contact with U.S. government authorities and  
16 to ascertain the whereabouts of Dennis Mack?

17 A Well, I utilized not only the regular  
18 telephone, but secure radio telephones coming back to  
19 the States. Also, there is numerous agents that I  
20 dealt with that would hand carry documents back and  
21 forth to the United States as they would be assembled.

22 Q Okay.

23 A Because the embassy was not secure.

24 Q Okay. That's the United States embassy in  
25 Costa Rica?



1 A United States embassy, San Jose,  
2 was not secure.

3 Q Okay. Now, can you tell us in yo  
4 for Dennis Mack, this federal fugitive, in c  
5 who were you maintaining your communications  
6 regard to the information you were gathering

7 A Direct information going back we  
8 Portland at U.S. Customs there.

9 Q And who was the case officer tha  
10 working with there?

11 A Well, the comptroller there of r  
12 intelligence was Jim Chin.

13 Q Okay. And it -- was that "C-H-I

14 A "C-H-I-N".

15 Q Okay. And who was the agent in  
16 that station in Portland?

17 A Larry LaDage.

18 Q And can you spell that for us?

19 A No.

20 Q Is it --

21 A -- That's a tough one. It's the P  
22 spelling.

23 Q Okay. "L-A" --

24 A -- "L-A" --

25 Q -- capital "D-O-D-G-E" --



Depositions  
T

1 A -- "D", right.

2 Q LaDodge?

3 A Yeah, right.

4 Q Okay. And who was Mr. LaDage employed by?

5 A U.S. Customs.

6 Q Okay. And so was Mr. Chin?

7 A Yes.

8 Q Okay. So, you communicated directly with  
9 these men about the information you were obtaining with  
10 regard to the whereabouts of Dennis Mack in Costa Rica;  
11 is that correct?

12 A That's correct.

13 Q Now, when you were there in Costa Rica, did  
14 you have an official contact in Costa Rica to  
15 communicate with, on the ground during your activities?

16 A Yes, but that's directly related to  
17 intelligence community and not Customs.

18 Q Okay. And are you at liberty to tell us who  
19 that was?

20 A That's a good question. You know, once  
21 again, we're doing this without the letter, so I don't  
22 know whether it's, you know --

23 Q Okay. Now, is it -- can you tell us, give  
24 us a general description of who the liaison was for any  
25 -- or, just explain to us. You say that with regard to



1 intelligence information.

2 A Right.

3 Q Well, what type of intelligence informat  
4 other than what Dennis Mack's activities or whereat  
5 were, were you in the capacity to obtain when you w  
6 there?

7 A Well, picking up documentation for the (   
8 for the DOD, for the NSC.

9 Q Okay. Now, when -- and it's this other  
10 information -- the National Security Council  
11 information; Central Intelligence Agency informati  
12 and DOD information -- you would pass to a differe  
13 party --

14 A Yes.

15 Q -- other than Mr. LaDage --

16 A Yes.

17 Q -- and Mr. Chin? Okay. And, can you :  
18 give us a general description of what the nature  
19 party was to whom you communicated that informati  
20 Costa Rica?

21 A He was --

22 Q What was his status?

23 A -- a retired colonel, that I knew for  
24 and he said that they had given him for work done  
25 one star and it had gone through Congress. But I



Scott McDaniels  
VESCO  
Jewell Made / Dennis Foley

1 or --

2 A Well, through a closet agree  
3 working for the SouthCom.

4 Q Okay. And that's the South  
5 the United States military?

6 A Southern Command; right.

7 Q Okay. And what --

8 (radio interrupts)

9 Q -- and --

10 THE WITNESS: Shut it off f

11 MS. REPORTER: We'll go off

12 MR. SHEEHAN: Yes, please.

13 (OFF THE RECORD)

14 MS. REPORTER: We're back

15 Q Okay. Now, Mr. Kelso, this

16 -

17 A McDaniels.

18 Q Or Daniels -- McDaniels, d  
19 his first name was?

20 A Scott.

21 Q Scott McDaniels. Okay, no  
22 talk with him directly?

23 A Yes.

24 Q So, you had direct confir  
25 the authority of the intermediary --



1 one star general?

2 A Yes.

3 Q Okay. Now, was there any other  
4 other than -- just give us the initial of  
5 name that will refer to this one star gen  
6 can refer to him.

7 A "M".

8 Q Okay. "M". Now, in addition  
9 communicating information with regard to  
10 and Drug Enforcement Administration info  
11 Mr. Mack to Mr. LaDage and to Mr. Chin,  
12 communication of this DOD, CIA and NSC i  
13 "M" to Mr. McDaniels; was there any othe  
14 you were instructed to give information  
15 in Costa Rica in 1986?

16 A Well, not at first. I mean,  
17 are the ones that directly, at first, t

18 -

19 Q Okay.

20 A -- I was dealing with.

21 Q All right.

22 A Later on, the couriers got  
23 time went on, because of the nature, t  
24 agents and meetings got up to three, f  
25 me at a time, during a week.



1 Q Yes?

2 A So --

3 Q All right. Now -- so, when you first

4 arrived in approximately late January or early February

5 of 1986, and you established your communications lines

6 up to Mr. LaDage and Mr. Chin, and through "M" to Scott

7 McDaniels; what did you do then? What steps did you

8 take to find Mr. Mack or discover what his activities

9 were in Costa Rica?

10 A Well, I developed some sources that "M" had

11 started. And through that, they went out and beat the

12 bush for me a little bit, extracted some third and

13 second level grassroots information. Went out there,

14 followed the sources; which led me to Mack's farm down

15 in Golfito where his son and daughter was living.

16 Q Okay. Now, this is in a town called

17 Golfito, Costa Rica?

18 A Yes, yes.

19 Q And how do you spell that?

20 A That's -- I'm terrible with Spanish

21 spelling.

22 Q All right.

23 A Just the way it sounds.

24 Q "G-U-L" --

25 A "G" -- "G" --



VESCO  
Golfito

1 Q -- "-F-I-T-O"?

2 A "--I-T-O", yes.

3 Q Okay. Golfito --

4 THE WITNESS: (To Mr. McGaughey)

5 Q -- Costa Rica. You say his  
6 daughter were living there; was Dennis  
7 living there?

8 A No, I later found out that he  
9 the Mexican border, so he could hop back  
10 between the U.S. border and the Mexican  
11 continue to conduct his narcotics business.

12 Q So, that -- but you found him

13 A Yes.

14 Q -- down in Golfito, Costa Rica.

15 A Yes.

16 Q And did you obtain information  
17 occasion, was there with his son and daughter?

18 A Yes.

19 Q Okay. And tell us, then, what  
20 took to continue your investigation.

21 A Well, from there the other side  
22 back, also with information on Vesco.

23 Q Okay.

24 A And I had a standing directive  
25 Vesco.



Q

A

Marshalls and Customs.

Q

Okay. And so then, that would have come through Mr. LaDage and Mr. Chin?

A

Larry LaDage and Mr. --

Q

Jim Chin?

A

-- Chin.

Q

Okay.

A

Okay. And the directive from the CIA was totally separate.

Q

Okay. And where had you received that directive from the Central Intelligence Agency to pursue Mr. Vesco?

A

In London.

Q

London. Okay. And did you have any direct communications with persons in the United States embassy in London, through which you received that directive from the Agency?

A

Yes.

Q

Okay. Now -- so you encountered information in Costa Rica in approximately February of 1986 about the activities of Mr. Robert Vesco; is that correct?

A

Yes.

Q

And you had this information about Mr.



1 Dennis Mack coming occasionally to Costa Rica to go to  
2 his ranch in Golfito?

3 A Yes.

4 Q Then what did you do?

5 A Well, they told me to continue to pursue the  
6 information on Vesco, which I did.

7 Q Who told you to do that?

8 A Well, Jim Chin did.

9 Q Okay.

10 A Okay. Number one, and the -- my standing  
11 directive from the Agency was to gather the information  
12 and pass it to LaDage.

13 Q Okay. So that even the information you were  
14 gathering pursuant to the instructions from the Central  
15 Intelligence Agency required that you give that  
16 information to Mr. LaDage?

17 A Yes.

18 Q Okay. Then what did you do?

19 A Well, from there it went and they had their  
20 jet parked in a hangar that I was --

21 Q Who's they?

22 A Vesco.

23 Q Robert Vesco.

24 A Had his jet parked in a hangar which I've  
25 got a picture of myself and another person standing at



1 his wing tip tank, leaning against it, and shot a  
2 picture of his tail number, his "N" number and the  
3 color scheme of the jet. And a decision was being made  
4 up here in the United States whether we were going to  
5 put a satellite pinger on it or not.

6 Q Okay.

7 A And they chose not to, even though we had  
8 such direct access.

9 Q Yes? Who did you submit that request to and  
10 get that directive from?

11 A To Larry LaDage.

12 Q Okay. And he recommended that you -- that's  
13 like a hound dog beeper?

14 A Well, it's a satellite -- it's a locator.

15 Q Okay.

16 A Okay.

17 Q A tracking device.

18 A And they track them via satellite.

19 Q Okay.

20 A So -- and from there --

21 Q Let me ask you this, Mr. Kelso. Did they  
22 confirm when you sent the "N" number to Mr. LaDage that  
23 this was, in fact, Mr. Vesco's jet?

24 A Yes.

25 Q Okay. And -- okay, but there was still a



1 decision made not to put a tracker on his jet?

2 A Yes.

3 Q Okay. And then what did you do?

4 A From there, I went and located all the  
5 property, or just about all the property, that Robert  
6 Vesco owned in Costa Rica and found out about his new  
7 house being built next door to Danny Ortega in Managua.  
8 And how Vesco pops into Costa Rica at Cabo Velas --

9 Q Can you just spell that phonetically for us?

10 A It's -- "C-A-B-O V-E-L-A-S".

11 Q Okay.

12 A And jumps in -- he had a red Mercedes up  
13 there for a long time on the farm. And would drive  
14 that up across the Costa Rican border into Managua, or  
15 into Nicaragua, driving to Managua.

16 Q Okay. Let's see now. You -- so, you  
17 located this information about Mr. Vesco?

18 A Yes.

19 Q Now, turning your attention to your  
20 information gathering activities in Costa Rica; did you  
21 obtain any information regarding the smuggling of large  
22 amounts of cocaine from Colombia into Costa Rica that  
23 would then later be going to the United States?

24 A Yes.

25 Q And can you tell us about that?



1 A Well, one example through a source -- and  
2 let me qualify the source. He was the ex-ambassador of  
3 Costa Rica to the United States.

4 Q Okay.

5 A Okay. And he was one of the more credible  
6 sources I had. Anyway, there was a mule train coming  
7 from Colombia through this mountain ridge line and they  
8 would go and bring it up into Costa Rica on these  
9 mules, back in the jungle.

10 Q Yes?

11 A And it was a substantial amount. You know,  
12 dealing like 10,000 pounds, 20,000 pounds of paste at a  
13 time.

14 Q Yes?

15 A And --

16 Q Where was this coming from?

17 A From Colombia.

18 Q And do you know who, individually, was --

19 A Well, no --

20 Q -- involved with it?

21 A -- but the end user was the M-19 farms --

22 Q Okay.

23 A -- or ranches.

24 Q What was M-19?

25 A Well, M-19 is the terrorist group, at the



1 time controlled by Carlos Lieder (phonetic). Oh, we had

2 Q Okay. Now, were there any other people at the

3 A And, you know, since that, that it's changed  
4 hands. But --

5 Q Now, but was Carlos -- who were the business  
6 partners, as far as you know, as an agent of the United  
7 States agencies gathering this information? What is  
8 your understanding as to who the business partners of  
9 Carlos Lieder are?

10 A Well, from the ones in Mexico and Central  
11 America, you got Lieder, Ochoa, Odebar, Barrantes,  
12 Noriega, and Escobar.

13 Q Yes?

14 A And I can't remember the other one from  
15 Mexico. There's another --

16 Q Carlos Quintero Cruz?

17 A Quintero.

18 Q Okay. So this the group that is bringing --  
19 this is the source of the cocaine and --

20 A Well, it's the source. But that's the whole  
21 make-up of the cartel.

22 Q Okay. So that these people are bringing the  
23 cocaine into Costa Rica in significant amounts. And  
24 did you ascertain where this cocaine was being  
25 processed in Costa Rica?



1           A       Well, by the time I left Costa Rica, we had  
2 located 32 labs. Some of them were existing at the  
3 time we researched them and had moved since.

4           Q       Yes?

5           A       But, the main labs that we had located were  
6 still in existence when I left. And DIS did go out and  
7 destroy a bunch of the operations.

8           Q       Okay. So you -- in addition to picking up  
9 the original information with regard to Dennis Mack and  
10 the existence of a ranch that he owned in Golfito, you  
11 picked up this information about Vesco, a second  
12 category of information.

13          A       Yes.

14          Q       And a third category of information you  
15 picked up about the cocaine smuggling of the Medellin  
16 cartel, from Colombia coming into Costa Rica; is that  
17 correct?

18          A       That's correct.

19          Q       All right. Now, when you looked into this  
20 cocaine smuggling that was going on in Costa Rica, did  
21 you undertake to establish communications with Mr.  
22 LaDage and Mr. Chin to recruit any other persons to  
23 help you?

24          A       Yes.

25          Q       And can you explain what you did?



1 A I got permission to recruit a gentleman  
2 named Brian Caldwell.

3 Q Yes?

4 A For Customs.

5 Q Okay.

6 A And, as a source to Customs. Brian Caldwell  
7 had a very nice gray to black background in criminal  
8 activity. And, he got between a rock and a hard place,  
9 and he got thrown in jail.

10 Q Okay.

11 A And we negotiated a deal; I went and took  
12 him out of jail and got him out of that trouble.

13 Q Okay. Now, to whom did you send Brian  
14 Caldwell to have him recruited to become a functioning  
15 official source of information?

16 A Well, it ended up to with Larry LaDage in  
17 New Orleans. But, the comptroller of telephone calls  
18 and information was done through Krochenberger.

19 Q Now, what -- can you give us the full name  
20 of this man?

21 A Krochenberger?

22 Q Yes.

23 A No. It's --

24 Q Is it Douglas --

25 A Yes.



1 Q -- Krochenberger?  
2 A Yes.  
3 Q And where was he based?  
4 A Based in the U.S. Customs office, New  
5 Orleans.  
6 Q Okay. And your testimony is that he worked  
7 with Mr. LaDage and Mr. Chin in Customs?  
8 A Well, worked with Larry LaDage.  
9 Q Okay.  
10 A Chin was up in the Portland office.  
11 Q So, Mr. Chin stayed up there, but Mr. LaDage  
12 --  
13 A Yes.  
14 Q -- would go from the Portland office to the  
15 --  
16 A Yes.  
17 Q -- New Orleans office as well?  
18 A He was being transferred and promoted into  
19 New Orleans.  
20 Q Okay. Now -- so you had Mr. Brian Caldwell  
21 working with you on gathering this information about  
22 the activities of the Medellin cartel associates in  
23 Costa Rica. Did you recruit any other people to help  
24 you?  
25 A Well, I had about 20 to 30 sources -- and



1 it's approximate --

2 Q Okay.

3 A -- of information dealing from government  
4 officials to bank officials to just a couple of them  
5 were people from the street.

6 Q Okay. Now, in addition to Mr. Caldwell --  
7 is Mr. Caldwell -- what country is he a citizen of?

8 A Canada.

9 Q Okay. Did there come a time when you  
10 recruited and worked with any other American citizens  
11 in this investigation?

12 A Well, yes but recruiting -- I don't know  
13 whether that would be proper to say. These were all  
14 people that worked for different agencies before.

15 Q Okay. Now, was there another individual  
16 with whom you worked closely in carrying out this  
17 multi-faceted investigation that you were engaged in?  
18 Any other Americans?

19 A No.

20 Q Okay. Now, when you began to engage in  
21 collecting information about the activities of  
22 associates of the Medellin cartel in Costa Rica, were  
23 you given directives from Mr. LaDage in U.S. Customs to  
24 continue gathering that information to convey to Mr.  
25 LaDage in U.S. Customs?



1 A That's correct.

2 Q Okay. Now, in pursuit of that directive,  
3 can you tell us whether or not you came to develop  
4 information that associates of the Medellin cartel who  
5 were engaged in bringing cocaine into Costa Rica, were  
6 engaged with any type of what I think you might call  
7 ultra-right wing political persons functioning in Costa  
8 Rica?

9 A Well, another oddity that developed was from  
10 Costa Rica Libre.

11 Q Yes?

12 A Okay. I met with the head of Costa Rica  
13 Libre under an artificially created situation. And he  
14 came in, had a chat, gave me references of both John  
15 Singlaub's telephone numbers in Washington -- his  
16 contact numbers. And Secord's contact numbers.

17 Q Okay. What -- when you say "an artificially  
18 created situation," -- what was the context of that  
19 situation in which he was giving you these as  
20 references for him?

21 A Well, we put him into a situation where --  
22 that, in order to qualify himself, to prove who he says  
23 he was, I wanted references --

24 Q Okay.

25 A -- before we went into further conversation,



1       which he immediately gave.

2           Q       Okay. And what was the nature of the  
3 relationship that he was attempting to establish his  
4 bona fides with regard to?

5           A       Well, the potential of having materiels  
6 delivered to Costa Rica Libre.

7           Q       What type of materiels?

8           A       Weapons, ammunition.

9           Q       Okay. Explosives?

10          A       No.

11          Q       Okay. Just weapons and ammunition. Okay.

12          A       Yes. And it was an artificially created  
13 conversation; it wasn't -- I mean, you know, it wasn't  
14 going anywhere.

15          Q       What you -- would this be what we would  
16 refer to in law enforcement as a "sting operation" of  
17 some sort?

18          A       No, no.

19          Q       What was it?

20          A       It wasn't a sting.

21          Q       How would you describe it?

22          A       It was a -- just a method of getting the  
23 person to talk.

24          Q       Yes?

25          A       I mean, it's just like --



A ... THE ...  
ON THE ...; EITHER WAY TO SAY IT.  
Q ... WHEN YOU HAD THIS CONVERSATION WITH  
THE MAN FROM COSTA RICA LIBRE, AND WERE TALKING ABOUT  
THE WEAPONS AND AMMUNITION, AT ... DID YOUR  
INVESTIGATION LEAD TO ANY INFORMATION SHOWING ANY  
CONNECTION BETWEEN MEMBERS OF COSTA RICA LIBRE AND THE  
ACTIVITIES OF THE MEDALLIN CARTEL OR OTHERS BRINGING  
WEAPONS TO COSTA RICA?

A ... YES. AT COSTA RICA LIBRE'S OFFICE, DIRECTLY  
BEHIND THE ... IS A BAR WHERE MOST OF THE UPPER  
MEMBERS OF COSTA RICA LIBRE HANG OUT. NOW THE ONE  
THING THAT WE FOUND WAS THAT THE ETA PEOPLE WOULD HANG  
OUT THERE AND DRINK WITH THEM. M-19 WAS THERE. THE  
GUERILLA MEXICO PEOPLE WERE THERE. AND IT WAS JUST --  
THEY WERE DRINKING TOGETHER, AND HAVING A GOOD TIME  
LIKE THEY WERE OLD BUDDIES.

Q ... OKAY. AND WHAT DID YOU DO THEN, TO PURSUE  
THAT -- YOUR LINE OF INVESTIGATION?

A ... WELL, THE ON-GOING -- OR PARALLELLING THIS  
WAS INFORMATION, OF COURSE, COMING THAT THE EMBASSY WAS  
DUFFY AND THE EMBASSY, YOU KNOW, HAD LEAKS.

Q ... THIS IS THE UNITED STATES EMBASSY IN COSTA  
RICA?



1 Q Was it an intelligence gathering activity?

2 A Yeah. Intelligence gathering activity would  
3 be the correct, polite way to say it.

4 Q Okay. When you had this conversation with  
5 the man from Costa Rica Libre, and were talking about  
6 the weapons and ammunition, et cetera, did your  
7 investigations lead to any information showing any  
8 connection between members of Costa Rica Libre and the  
9 activities of the Medellin cartel or others bringing  
10 cocaine to Costa Rica?

11 A Yes. At Costa Rica Libre's office, directly  
12 across the street's a bar where most of the upper  
13 echelon of Costa Rica Libre hang out. Now the one  
14 oddity that we found was that the ETA people would hang  
15 out there and drink with them. M-19 was there. The  
16 German mafia people were there. And it was just --  
17 they were drinking together, and having a good time  
18 like they were old buddies.

19 Q Okay. And what did you do then, to pursue  
20 that -- your line of investigation?

21 A Well, the on-going -- or parallelling this  
22 was information, of course, coming that the embassy was  
23 dirty and the embassy, you know, had leaks.

24 Q This is the United States embassy in Costa  
25 Rica?



1 A Yes, yes.

2 Q And what did you do to pursue -- let me ask  
3 this. Did you communicate that intelligence  
4 information you were gathering to Mr. LaDage?

5 A That directly, in regards to Costa Rica  
6 Libre, went both ways; to the CIA and to LaDage.

7 Q So, it went to Mr. LaDage and went to "M" to  
8 go to Mr. Scott McDaniels?

9 A No, it went directly to the CIA.

10 Q Through what channel?

11 A Direct from one of the agents.

12 Q An agent in Costa Rica?

13 A Yeah, he flew in to see me. Someone from  
14 Europe.

15 Q Okay. And you had known him from before?

16 A Yeah.

17 Q And he -- you had seen his credentials to  
18 know exactly that he was with Central Intelligence?

19 A Yes.

20 Q Okay. So you gave this information -- you  
21 say that about the personnel in the United States  
22 embassy being "dirty", you said?

23 A Yes.

24 Q Now, what did you mean by that?

25 A Well, in the visa and passport section, some



1 "ticos" -- or Costa Ricans -- that were hired there,  
2 had been manufacturing passports for a long time and  
3 selling visas.

4 Q Yes?

5 A And that went to Larry, to the State  
6 Department, to the FBI; and they turned around and shut  
7 the embassy down for 45 days. It was approximate 45  
8 days, while they did a security check.

9 At the same time, there was another incident  
10 with a driver for one of the members of DOD, that was a  
11 problem. And that was taken care of just shortly  
12 before that.

13 Q And this was information that you developed  
14 and had communicated to Mr. LaDage?

15 A Well, the information on the driver went  
16 right to the CIA.

17 Q Okay.

18 A Direct.

19 Q Now, there were -- I think you mentioned a  
20 man by the name of Mr. Nevas earlier when I asked you  
21 to explain who was involved with the Medellin cartel  
22 and cocaine smuggling in Costa Rica; is that correct?

23 A That's correct.

24 Q Now, who was Mr. Nevas?

25 A Well, Mr. Nevas was supposed to be the head



1 of DEA. And the problem was, he was also the lead  
2 agent of the lead agency at the embassy there.

3 Q So -- but, what agency was that?

4 A Well, DEA.

5 Q Okay. So, he was -- what you're saying is,  
6 Mr. Nevas was the head agent for the United States Drug  
7 Enforcement Agency in Costa Rica.

8 A Right.

9 Q And that he was based in the United States  
10 embassy --

11 A And --

12 Q -- in San Jose.

13 A Right. And the DEA was the lead agency at  
14 the embassy.

15 Q Okay. Now, so that that explains who he was  
16 from his official capacity.

17 A Right.

18 Q What did you find from your investigations  
19 about Mr. Nevas and his relationship with persons who  
20 were smuggling cocaine into Costa Rica with the  
21 Medellin cartel?

22 A Well, we had numerous discrepancies in  
23 arrests and numerous discrepancies in seizures. The  
24 amount seized, 99 percent of the time in these  
25 situations between Luis Barrantes running narcotics for



1 Costa Rica and Nevas representing the DEA, the numbers  
2 never jived.

3 Q Well, explain that. Give us an example;  
4 like if they --

5 A An example was that we have two direct  
6 witnesses, both of them extremely credible people;  
7 counted the kilos coming off the airplanes. It was  
8 directly half the amount by the time it got back to Sa  
9 Jose.

10 And Nevas was at the end of the airport,  
11 slightly off the property, not directly involved in a  
12 operation of -- you know, a seizure operation. And  
13 Barrantes went over there with all of the product. B  
14 then Mr. Barrantes showed up at narcotics Costa Rica  
15 with half the product.

16 So, it's strictly conjecture and after  
17 understanding and seeing more of Nevas' and his  
18 associates' behavior, that it stands a good chance t  
19 Mr. Nevas took possession of half the product.

20 Q Okay. Now -- so, what you're saying is t  
21 upon your arrival in February of 1986, working with  
22 United States Customs officials, looking for Dennis  
23 Mack and then discovering this information you've  
24 mentioned briefly about Mr. Vesco, you turned some  
25 attention to exploring the information about cocaine



1 smuggling of the Medellin cartel.

2 And you came to the initial conclusion or  
3 preliminary speculation -- you said conjecture -- that  
4 Mr. Nevas, the head of the United States Drug  
5 Enforcement Administration and the lead agency in the  
6 United States Embassy was involved in graft, taking --  
7 skimming, if you will, drugs -- cocaine -- off from  
8 seizures.

9 Did you -- is that correct?

10 A That's correct.

11 Q Now, did you pursue that initial speculation  
12 to pursue that investigation and tell --

13 A Well --

14 Q -- people about that?

15 A -- from the information I was getting across  
16 the street -- because, see, the embassy's broke up in  
17 two parts there. The people within the building across  
18 the street was concurring with the fundamental  
19 information that I was receiving and that, you know,  
20 they just shrugged their shoulders and said "geez, he  
21 found out".

22 And, you know, left it at that. And I  
23 brought --

24 Q What is the nature of the two divisions of  
25 the embassy; is there different offices in different --



1 A Yeah, it's basically the DOD and other  
2 related services are across the street. You know, the  
3 minor ones --

4 Q Okay.

5 A -- are across the street. And the security  
6 building and that is opposite of that.

7 Q And that's where the DEA is?

8 A Yes.

9 Q Okay. So, then you say you went and you had  
10 communications with representatives of DOD in this  
11 secondary portion of the embassy?

12 A Yes.

13 Q And some of them confirmed to you that that  
14 was their judgment as well; that Nevas was doing this?

15 A Yes.

16 Q Now, did you communicate this information to  
17 Mr. LaDage?

18 A Yes.

19 Q And did Mr. LaDage give you any directive to  
20 pursue that investigation to ascertain the --

21 A Yes.

22 Q -- veracity?

23 A Yes.

24 Q And then what did you do?

25 A Well, another person at the DOD slipped me a



1 note of a member that -- of the embassy that worked  
2 across the street there in the security side. And told  
3 me that this person wanted to talk and needed some  
4 protection through the State Department and couldn't  
5 get it down there. And tried to bring it up in  
6 conversation and no one would let him bring it up in  
7 conversation. I don't know if this person still works  
8 at the embassy or not, but he was absolutely frantic to  
9 talk to me, in regards to the same matters.

10 Q Okay. Did you have an opportunity to talk  
11 with this person?

12 A Not directly.

13 Q Okay. Did the -- who acted as an  
14 intermediary?

15 A Members of the DOD.

16 Q Okay. Was this a United States government  
17 employee at the DOD?

18 A That talked to him?

19 Q Yes, that talked to you and him?

20 A Yes, yes.

21 Q Okay. And this is a person -- is this a  
22 person that you would be willing if necessary to  
23 disclose to the court?

24 A No.

25 Q Okay. So this person asserted that -- the



1 DOD contact had a communication with a person in the  
2 security building of the U.S. embassy?

3 A Yes.

4 Q Now, this person that we're talking about in  
5 the U.S. embassy; was he an American citizen?

6 A Yes.

7 Q And, give us a general description, if you  
8 can, of what position this person was in that would  
9 have put them in a position to ascertain this  
10 information?

11 A It would give him away.

12 Q Okay. How -- was it a high-ranking  
13 position?

14 A Yes.

15 Q Okay. And, so let's refer to the DOD  
16 liaison you had as "X", and the man in the American  
17 embassy in the security building as "Y".

18 A Yes.

19 Q Okay. What did "X" tell you that "Y" was  
20 saying to him?

21 A "X" told me that "Y" had direct information,  
22 documentation and proof of going and hiding or  
23 disqualifying, disassembling raw intelligence on  
24 shipments and deliveries. You know, he was shifting --  
25 or sifting through raw intelligence. Nevas was.



1 Q Yes?

2 A And filtering documentation before it went  
3 to the -- to Washington.

4 Q Okay. So, if what I'm -- am I understanding  
5 this correctly; that Nevas was editing out of raw  
6 intelligence data about cocaine smuggling in Central  
7 America, the information about certain individuals  
8 participating in that --

9 A Yes.

10 Q -- before it was sent to Washington?

11 A Yes.

12 Q Okay. Did "X" tell you whether "Y" knew who  
13 the parties were that were --

14 A Yes.

15 Q -- being edited out?

16 A Yes.

17 Q And who were they?

18 A They were Odebar, Barrantes, Noriega,  
19 Escobar -- you know. It's the whole club.

20 Q Okay. Now, did your -- did you communicate  
21 this information to Mr. LaDage?

22 A Yes. It's on the logbook up there.

23 Q Okay. And did you communicate to Mr. LaDage  
24 who "X" was and who "Y" was?

25 A I believe I communicated who "Y" was; I



never communicated with --

Q Okay. So that Mr. LaDage knew, however, who the primary source was in the --

A Yeah.

Q -- embassy?

A Yes.

Q Okay. Do you know whether Mr. LaDage took any steps to establish any communications with "Y"?

A No. He left that up to me.

Q Okay.

A "Y" was extremely scared of everybody. And the only reason "Y" decided to come to me was that the DOD recommended him to me in order to carry the information to where it needed to go, where it would do some good, because of the relative job of that driver.

Q Okay.

A This other problem the embassy had that I took care of.

Q I remember. Okay.

MS. REPORTER: Excuse me.

MR. SHEEHAN: Yes?

MS. REPORTER: I'd like to go off the record to change the audiotape.

MR. SHEEHAN: Okay.

(OFF THE RECORD)



1 edited the second time. When it hit Denver, they  
2 edited it the third time. So --

3 Q All right. Well, we'll cover that, how  
4 those eventualities occurred. So, you've got this  
5 information now, coming to you directly from "X" and  
6 you have conveyed to Mr. LaDage the name of "Y", who is  
7 the primary source regarding this; is that correct?

8 A Yes.

9 Q And, projecting your time period, now, from  
10 your initial arrival in late January, early February of  
11 1986; approximately what time is it, what date is it,  
12 what month or so, when you're getting this information  
13 about Mr. Nevas?

14 A Approximately May.

15 Q Okay. Now --

16 A About Nevas, it was before that. But in  
17 regards to more hardcore documentable, bring it in to  
18 court; that took place around May.

19 Q Okay. And describe for the court, if you  
20 would, what the nature of the evidence was that you  
21 continued to develop pursuant to your directions from  
22 Mr. LaDage about Nevas and that --

23 A Okay. There were six credible witnesses  
24 that would cooperate with Larry if I got them on a  
25 secure aircraft, took them out of the country, let them



1 do their depositions, and then it would be determined  
2 whether that we would bring them back or keep them up  
3 here for safekeeping.

4 Q Okay. Now, let's focus on that. What was  
5 the nature of the information that these six -- let's  
6 call these -- are these with regard to Mr. Nevas?

7 A Yes.

8 Q Okay. Let's call these Nevas witnesses one  
9 through six.

10 A Yes.

11 Q Okay. What was the nature of the  
12 information that they had?

13 A Exact instances that they were personally  
14 standing there watching operations; talking to people  
15 -- you know, third member in a conversation,  
16 essentially -- out on sites; out at the airports;  
17 involved in over-all security of operations.

18 Q Okay. And what did -- what were the sort of  
19 general positions of these persons one through six;  
20 what positions were they in that enabled them to get  
21 this information?

22 A One is a high-ranking security officer --

23 Q From?

24 A -- in Costa Rica.

25 Q Okay.



3 States from Costa Rica?

4 A Yes; that's kind of giving him up.

5 Q Okay.

6 A Another one was an U.S. embassy official  
7 under the State Department. Another one was the U.S.  
8 Department of Defense. Another one was a foreign agent  
9 from another country. And number six was the witness  
10 -- direct street witness -- that was black-mailed and  
11 subsequently silenced through extortion.

12 Q Okay. Now, in -- what was it that they said  
13 once you got to this more developed state of the case,  
14 what did they say to you was their direct knowledge of  
15 Mr. Nevas and his activities?

16 A Okay. Well, they were all reverting back to  
17 direct involvement with narcotics smuggling.

18 Q Okay.

19 A And -- if you want to use the word  
20 protection in that situation.

21 Q Okay.

22 A And that's the bottom line. I mean, it was  
23 all relative to that, with exact situations, exact  
24 information, documentation.

25 Q Okay. Now, did they turn over their



1 documentation to you? Or, did they agree to present it  
2 to Mr. LaDage?

3 A They agreed to --

4 Q What was done?

5 A They agreed to present -- I looked at almost  
6 all the evidence. But I did go and make an agreement  
7 with them that for them to maintain and hold it until  
8 which time that I could arrange travel to take them to  
9 the United States where they can present it and that  
10 Larry could take custody of the evidence in order to  
11 sign for it and everything would be above board and it  
12 keeps me out of the light.

13 Q Okay.

14 A Tried.

15 Q Now, did you communicate the names of these  
16 individuals to Mr. LaDage?

17 A Some of them, yes.

18 Q Okay. And did you do that through secure  
19 channels, or, how did you communicate that to him?

20 A That was hand carried, some of the names  
21 were. And there was other names that he had already  
22 known.

23 Q Okay. Now, did you ever succeed in  
24 accomplishing the goal of taking these people to LaDage  
25 to get him to have this information on Mr. Nevas?



1 A No. Later on I found out Larry LaDage had a  
2 directive not to bring these people to the United  
3 States to let them testify.

4 Q Okay. And who told you about that  
5 directive?

6 A CIA.

7 Q Okay. And did they tell you where the  
8 directive had come from?

9 A Yes. From the number two man for U.S.  
10 Customs.

11 Q Number two man in the United States?

12 A Right. In the United States, under the  
13 director of U.S. Customs.

14 Q Who is that?

15 A I believe that's Mr. Von Raab.

16 Q Mr. Von Raab is the one who issued the  
17 order, or he's the top guy?

18 A Von Raab's the director of Customs.

19 Q Okay. Who was the number two guy that gave  
20 this directive?

21 A The way I understand it is that the  
22 conversation went and Rosenblatt made the document for  
23 Larry, or to Larry.

24 Q Okay. So, it's Mr. Rosenblatt, the director  
25 of enforcement for Customs --



1 A Yeah.

2 Q -- wrote out a document to Mr. LaDage  
3 directing him not to take the information from these  
4 people?

5 A Right. To cool all operations regarding  
6 narcotics and the embassy and the people involved  
7 there.

8 Q Okay. Now, did you in pursuing this  
9 investigation, develop any information with regard to  
10 the connection between this protection for this  
11 Medellin cartel activity in Costa Rica and any of the  
12 political activities with the contras or the Costa Rica  
13 Libre or the other right-wing groups in Costa Rica?

14 A We had information coming in where we had  
15 eyewitnesses to, and invitations to go see drug  
16 shipments by contras on to airplanes.

17 Q Okay.

18 A And we were also told that these were rebel  
19 operations not directly involved with the contra  
20 movement.

21 Q Okay. That was your initial information  
22 that you got?

23 A Yes.

24 Q Now, what did you do to pursue that  
25 information?



1           A     Well, we started investigating John Hull;  
2     his operation, his ranches.

3           Q     Okay. And who is the "we" that you were  
4     doing that with?

5           A     Well, myself; a member of the DOD; and, also  
6     there was a concerned CIA person also participating.

7           Q     Okay.

8           A     And, you know, those guys kept it at arms  
9     reach, because of the implications.

10          Q     Okay. Now, did you communicate this desired  
11     investigative channel to Mr. LaDage?

12          A     Yes; he knew that we were working on it.

13          Q     Okay. And did he give you authority from  
14     his office in Customs to pursue that investigation of  
15     Mr. --

16          A     Well --

17          Q     -- Hull's ranch?

18          A     -- this was two-fold. When we were up  
19     screwing around on John's properties and that, that we  
20     were also up in the area working on Vesco's properties.

21          Q     Okay. Was -- did Vesco have property up  
22     near where John Hull is?

23          A     Well, not directly. You know, Cabo Velas is  
24     maybe 150 air miles, or -- yeah, about 150, maybe 120  
25     air miles from John's main farm, where he lives.



1 Q Okay.

2 A Now, there's other farms that are close, but  
3 there's no real direct relation.

4 Q Okay. So, you said, however, that you did  
5 pursue this investigation with Mr. LaDage's knowledge  
6 of John Hull's farms and activities going on there; is  
7 that correct?

8 A Yes, in regards to allegations on drugs.

9 Q Okay. And now tell us what -- how that  
10 investigation evolved and what you ascertained about  
11 the connection between the drug smuggling and these  
12 contra activities?

13 A The only incident that came up with John  
14 Hull -- that John Hull that -- I mean, we can document  
15 he had his hands on is an incident when a twin-engine  
16 Seneca landed on his farm with narcotics in it and that  
17 the pilot had engine trouble, came in and tried to ask  
18 for help to get the aircraft repaired and get on his  
19 way.

20 John thought it was a set up; there is  
21 another member there from the U.S. government --  
22 employed by the U.S. government would be the proper  
23 terminology -- and they dismantled the airplane; cut it  
24 into pieces; threw it in the river behind John's house.  
25 And turned the narcotics over to Barrantes -- or,



through the Rural Guard but -- and then eventually it's supposed to have gotten to Barrantes, who is head of narcotics and the party or the pilot was arrested for smuggling.

Q Okay. Now, with regard to your investigations of these allegations of involvement of the contra members; did you ascertain any information about any contra camps that had any cocaine processing laboratories or --

A Well, there --

Q -- training facilities that were together?

A -- was two -- there was two. One on the northern Costa Rica southern Nicaragua that we had witnesses saying that they were involved in coke. And these were the people that also reiterated that these are "bad" contras.

See, the -- in the southern front, the contras are not as organized as in the north, and that there are split fractions. This is the time during when Pastora going and making all the waves. So, it's like having six, seven different armies on a front. And one wouldn't cooperate with the other one's supply logistics or anything.

And so, it was a situation where the contra leader on the base that we got the information from



1 demonstrated that at this contra base, this is what the  
2 problem is and these particular contras were, in fact,  
3 involved in narcotics and were, in fact, involved in  
4 smuggling.

5 Q Okay.

6 A Period.

7 Q Okay. And that you --

8 A So --

9 Q -- you indicated before that you could --  
10 you were able to locate the place where this contra  
11 camp was, if we can get a map of Costa Rica?

12 A Yeah.

13 Q Okay. Well, we'll try to get that over the  
14 lunch break and see if we can locate that.

15 Now, did your investigations of the  
16 activities of the Medellin cartel in Costa Rica lead  
17 you to find any information about a man by the name of  
18 Dagoberto Nunez and a company by the name of  
19 Frigorificos de Puntarenas and a company by the name of  
20 Ocean Hunter Seafoods?

21 A Yes.

22 Q Can you tell us what that was?

23 A -- There was an incident when the aircraft --  
24 Vesco's aircraft flew from Mexico City to Costa Rica.  
25 The fish cannery company is what we call it. The



members of that family got off the airplane -- we got all the information and passed it; passport numbers and so on and so forth to Larry LaDage. Further, we found out the people that pay the bills on Vesco's aircraft when it's stored in San Jose was the canning company.

Q Is this Frigorificos de Puntarenas?

A Yes.

Q Okay.

A Now, the other relative in their narcotics and of it was Ocean Hunter, because his -- he and his wife were getting a divorce.

Q Who's "he"? Nunez?

A No, no; not Nunez.

Q Paco Chanez?

A No.

Q No?

A I'd have to go back through my notes.

Q Okay.

A Anyway, the owner of Ocean Hunter --

Q Yes?

A -- and they had another name for it.

Q Is this Luis Rodrigues?

A I don't recall. I --

Q Okay. We'll check -- have you check your  
es.



1 A I think it's --

2 Q Okay.

3 A -- I think it's Luis Rodrigues, but --  
4 anyway --

5 Q He and his wife were getting a divorce?

6 A He and his wife were getting a divorce and  
7 they were having a big argument. His wife approached  
8 one of my sources to go and, basically, defect. Okay?  
9 Get flown to the United States, get residency. In  
10 return, she would go and talk about all the shipments  
11 -- how, who, what, where, when, why; the whole ball of  
12 wax.

13 Q Yes?

14 A In return. And that was being proposed --

15 Q Okay.

16 A -- to Larry. And --

17 Q So, you communicated that proposal --

18 A Right; to Larry.

19 Q -- on her part to Larry LaDage?

20 A Yes.

21 Q And then what did Mr. LaDage say about that?

22 A Well, like always, it takes days for him to  
23 process --

24 Q Right.

25 A -- you know, and come up with a conclusion.



1 So --

2 Q Right.

3 A -- you know, in good gesture, she told us  
4 about a 600 ki deal going down in a shrimp boat  
5 destined for Miami. And we did track the boat through  
6 SouthCom going from Puntarenas through the Panama  
7 Canal, into Venezuela, where it sat there.

8 Q Yes?

9 A And that's the last I had any personal  
10 viewing of this.

11 Q Now, did you communicate information about  
12 this ship to --

13 A Larry LaDage.

14 Q -- Mr. LaDage?

15 A Yes.

16 Q Okay. And do you know whether or not they  
17 took any steps to intercept that boat?

18 A I don't know. I have --

19 Q Okay.

20 A -- no idea.

21 Q All right. Now, do you know whether or not  
22 after that show of good faith, or the -- of her  
23 credibility -- that this wife of the owner of Ocean  
24 Hunter ever was re-contacted by Mr. LaDage, that that  
25 ever developed at all?



1 A I have no idea. After I left there, that  
2 was it. They turned the switch off; I was doing  
3 something else then.

4 Q Okay. Now, turning your attention to the  
5 activities of the -- this right-wing element in Costa  
6 Rica; Costa Rica Libre, the contra elements, et cetera.

7 A Yes.

8 Q Did you ascertain any other information  
9 about any laboratories or processing facilities --

10 A Yes.

11 Q -- that were in conjunction with these  
12 people?

13 A Yes. Costa Rica Libre owned a training base  
14 by Qeupos. Certain --

15 Q How do you spell that? "C-A-P-O-S"?

16 A Qeupos, I don't know, fuck. Give me a map.

17 Q Okay. "C-A-" -- okay.

18 A Anyway, it's a -- was a Costa Rica Libre  
19 base. Contras were being trained there, and that the  
20 one witness who did national security for Costa Rica  
21 came to me one day and said, 'you know, we've got, you  
22 know, big problem -- big problem'. And I said, "what's  
23 that"?

24 And then he says, 'well, we have a person  
25 that wants to talk to someone to get the information to



1 the proper authorities in Washington. And we know who  
2 you are, we know your work and we know that you're not  
3 bought off. Would you be interested in going out and  
4 visiting with this guy?'

5 And the guy was being blackmailed, also,  
6 that if he talked to anyone from the United States  
7 government; that they were going to kill his wife and  
8 daughters, and the whole bit. So, subsequently, that  
9 did take place. You know, eight of them were machine  
10 gunned down and the weapon was brought across the  
11 Panamanian border and we had it tracked to that point.  
12 And the weapon was recovered by some U.S. troops.

13 Q Okay. Let's back up on this one. You're  
14 approached by a person who works for the national  
15 security offices in Costa Rica --

16 A Yes.

17 Q -- is that DIS or --

18 A No, no, no. DIS is --

19 Q Okay. What agency was that?

20 A I can't remember what they called the damn  
21 thing. It's --

22 Q One of the national security offices, then?

23 A Well, it's the only one.

24 Q Oh, Oijota (phonetic)? OIJ?

25 A Oh, fuck no. OIJ is like the FBI.



1 Q All right.

2 A A bunch of idiots.

3 Q All right. All right. Is it Washington?

4 A The -- I can't place it. I'm --

5 Q All right. We'll --

6 A -- Enrique worked there. You know?

7 Q -- we'll get -- okay. We'll get back to  
8 that.

9 A So --

10 Q So, that this person comes to you --

11 A Right.

12 Q -- and says that there is a contra base camp  
13 somewhere where there's a training camp --

14 A Yes.

15 Q -- and that there's -- there's what? A  
16 cocaine processing facility of some --

17 A Yes.

18 Q -- sort there?

19 A Also there.

20 Q And did he -- where -- by Quepos?

21 A Quepos.

22 Q Now -- and he wanted to come to communicate  
23 that information -- there was a source.

24 A Yes.

25 Q With first-hand knowledge --



1 A Yes.

2 Q -- who wanted to communicate that to a  
3 person who could communicate it to Washington?

4 A Yes.

5 Q Okay. Now, did you ever communicate with  
6 that man?

7 A Partially, yes.

8 Q How -- explain what happened?

9 A Well, it -- on our way out there, it was  
10 determined that it was too hazardous for that person  
11 and that arrangements would be made to make him  
12 disappear out of that location and we could go and  
13 smuggle him back -- in essence smuggle him back -- but  
14 smuggle him out of Costa Rica --

15 Q Yes?

16 A -- and bring him back to the United States  
17 so he could go and, you know, give a deposition and  
18 testify.

19 Q Okay.

20 A Out of that happening, to some degree, they  
21 went and took out his collateral.

22 Q His family?

23 A Yeah.

24 Q Now, was there any information -- let's call  
25 the national security officer "N" as in Nancy, for



1 national security officer -- "N-S".

2 A Umm hmm.

3 Q And he gave you the name of this individual  
4 source?

5 A Yes. I had the name, description and all  
6 the information, so I could make travel arrangements.

7 Q Okay.

8 A We were going to stick him on the mail plane  
9 going back to the United States and then, there was  
10 second opinion that we shouldn't do it that way. And  
11 that to put him on a commercial airliner, which we had  
12 no problem going through Costa Rica and, you know,  
13 right on to the apron --

14 Q Yes?

15 A -- you know, we had security passes to go  
16 anywhere.

17 Q Okay. Now, once -- now that preliminary  
18 arrangement was set up and then you went to attempt to  
19 establish direct communication with him; is that  
20 correct?

21 A Yes.

22 Q But, you didn't have that direct, face to  
23 face meeting with him because of a concern that he was  
24 too hot?

25 A That's correct. Not the information was too



t; that it would --

Q That he was.

A -- be putting him in jeopardy.

Q Yes.

A So --

Q Now, how long after that initial attempt to  
contact him that you backed away from was his family  
killed?

A About two weeks.

Q Okay. Now, what -- can you remember  
approximately what time of the year in 1986 this was?

A No. I'd have to dig it all out.

Q Okay. Now, what -- was there any  
information relating to this camp at Campos (sic)?

A Quepos.

Q Quepos, that related to any of the  
dependants in this case?

A Yes.

Q Can you tell us what that is?

A Well, the guy knew who Nevas was. He also  
saw, or saw, M-1 plates, which is the U.S. insignia  
for Costa Rica -- embassy plate. He directly saw  
several embassy vehicles on the property. He  
identified contra members as being contras and not  
Costa Rica Libre. He also drew out a picture for us of



a symbol on the tail of an airplane; and that symbol is the symbol on John Hull's airplane -- also being down there. So --

Q Okay. Was there any reference to any other Americans being there?

A Well, they -- he tried to describe what we believed to be as Secord, also down at that camp. But I tried to get a picture of Secord and Singlaub and let him look at it back then, and the DOD wouldn't release that -- photos.

Q To you? They wouldn't --

A Right.

Q Okay. Now, did you take any steps to communicate the description of these other Americans to anyone and get any information as to who those descriptions fit?

A Yes. Part of the description that the guy made, he kept on repeating that it was CIA people. Okay?

Q Yes?

A See, the problem is in that country, as you well know, is that everyone gets confused automatically -- is if you're in the bush, you're automatically CIA. You know, it doesn't make any difference where you're from.



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so, he kept saying that. So, it was my  
problem, or my duty, to go and respond that back to the  
CIA that this allegation is -- is that we got two CIA  
agents at Quepos at this laboratory participating in  
drug manufacturing. Okay?

Well, later on, it was determined that it  
could be Secord and one other person, and not, in fact,  
"CIA personnel". So, that that's about where that's  
at.

The information was transmitted also to  
SouthCom, to the CIA officer there. It was hand  
carried, on a microcassette. And also on the  
microcassette was relative to a situation with Oscar  
Arras.

Q Okay. Now -- so, you've -- you were  
exploring that third area of the cocaine smuggling and  
the Medellin cartel and the others. And you point out  
that there's a fourth area that you encountered of an  
investigative interest, that had to do something with  
Oscar Arras. Is that correct?

A Yes.

Q And can you explain to us what that was?

A Well --

Q And how it developed?

A -- early on, I found a cachet of weapons at



1 a warehouse in northern Costa Rica. They were  
2 assembled in lots and for sale on the black market for  
3 \$50,000 per lot. And I transmitted some serial numbers  
4 down with McDaniels to SouthCom.

5 SouthCom was extremely interested in  
6 pursuing it because these weapons were of -- or, let's  
7 just say they were on the computer. So, my first  
8 summation was that it was the weapons that Eden Pastora  
9 had collected and put in a warehouse.

10 Because the weapons on the southern front  
11 were all gathered up from the contras and they  
12 disappeared. Later on I found out they were, in fact,  
13 the weapons from the southern front, all gathered up.  
14 So -- and

15 Q Okay. So you found -- whereabouts was this  
16 warehouse?

17 A In north -- northern Costa Rica.

18 Q Okay. Where was this in relationship to  
19 Hull's ranch?

20 A 80 air miles.

21 Q Okay. Was it near a town of any sort?

22 A Well, I'd --

23 Q We'll get a map.

24 A -- it doesn't make any difference.

25 Q Okay.



A We'll just leave it at that.

Q Okay.

A The next problem, or the next situation regarding that was my change in -- if you want to say -- employment status, from one area to another.

Q Explain that to us; what happened?

A Well --

Q Just as best as you can.

A Yeah. I was recruited to go to a different division of the government and take my control from a position in Washington state.

Q Okay. And then, rather than continuing your primary control from Mr. LaDage --

A No. LaDage was secondary.

Q That's what I mean. But, this is a new thing. That you worked with Mr. Chin and Mr. LaDage --

A Right.

Q -- originally. And then, about this time, were receiving suggestions that you were going to taking primary control from another agency of the government?

A Yes.

Q Okay. And would it be fair to say that that the National Security Council?

A Yes. That's what it was represented to me.



1 Q Okay. And you had direct communications  
2 with another person?

3 A Yes.

4 Q Okay. And, let's refer to this as person  
5 "A"?

6 A That's fine.

7 Q Okay. And did person "A" specifically tell  
8 you that he was working with the National Security  
9 Council?

10 A Yes.

11 Q Okay. And you then stated that at about  
12 this time you had discovered this big warehouse of  
13 weapons and that you had discovered that they were  
14 weapons that were brought in to contras on the southern  
15 front.

16 A Yes.

17 Q And that you couldn't understand what they  
18 were doing at this big place, being up for sale like  
19 this?

20 A Yes.

21 Q Then what happened?

22 A Well, then I told them about the part that  
23 they were also offered to the M-19 for free. And it's

24 -- that's correct.

25 Q Okay. So, this -- a peculiar thing happened



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Q So you communicated that to person "A", who was your contact and control officer from the National Security Council?

A Yes. And to Scotty.

Q And to Scotty McDaniels?

A Right.

Q Through "M"?

A Right.

Q Okay. You state that the response of person "A", your liaison with the National Security Council --

A Yes.

Q -- was he got upset that you knew about this and that when you told him about your knowledge of the availability of these weapons to M-19 for free, that you -- that he became even more upset?

A Yes.

Q Okay. Well, then what happened?

A Well, shortly after that, on a Friday afternoon, I was put on stand-by. I was told -- you know, I was asked if I had my weapon with me.

Q Who asked you this?

A "A".

Q Person "A"?

A Yes.



NEGATIVE SITUATION  
EDEN PASTORA

oxi Q Okay.

A A If I had my throw down weapon with me. And  
rme -- to stay in the hotel and stay by the telephone.  
try don't move.

Q Q And what hotel were you in?

A A Irazu.

Q Q The Hotel Irazu in San Jose?

A Yes.

A Q Okay.

Q A And he didn't tell me what it was for; he

A said 'never mind. Just stay there; we have a

Q em developing'. And so, I hung out there by the

t hone all weekend long. Later I found out -- and

c he told me, also -- that Eden Pastora was on the

A 1 floor and he was being debriefed and talked to.

at, if things didn't go right in their

sations or negotiations, that they wanted me to

there and put him in a negative situation. So --

Did he make it clear to you what -- how

ve he wanted that situation to be?

Well, the terminology "negative situation"

go up and kill him.

Okay.

So --

And, so you were standing by. In



oximately when was this?

A Well, it was shortly after the weapons  
rmation came in. It was before I went out of the  
try again.

Q Okay.

A So --

Q And so what time period would that put that

A Before June.

Q Before June of '86?

A Yeah.

Q Okay. You're standing by in this situation,  
these later instructions to you from person "A",  
connection to the NSC?

A Yeah.

Q Okay. Now, did such an eventuality ever  
op, that you were asked to do that?

A No. I was never ordered or received a  
:ive to go up there and do that.

Q Okay.

A Although I did go in officiate over the  
d to find out who was in the hotel, because I  
d out it had to be something going on in the

Yes?



1           A       Monday, when I asked them what happened, you  
2 know, what was going on --

3           Q       You asked "A"?

4           A       -- I asked "A"; then he told me.

5           Q       Okay.

6           A       So --

7           Q       But, he said that it hadn't developed that  
8 they needed to do that?

9           A       It -- that's correct.

10          Q       Okay.

11          A       And he also asked me if I had a problem in  
12 doing that. I said, "no, I had no problem". As long  
13 as it was a directive.

14          Q       Okay.

15          A       So --

16          Q       All right. So, you were there at the hotel  
17 and that you had been -- you knew about this big cache  
18 of weapons now being made available, peculiarly, for  
19 free to the M-19. Then what happened?

20          A       Well, I was in another country doing another  
21 project. And Brian Caldwell -- when I left, I had him  
22 in three categories if data flowed in; that number one,  
23 to send it to Krochenberger; number two, send it to  
24 "M"; and, number three, to Scotty.

25          Q       Okay.



1 A And if he had any questions, let "M" look at  
2 it. He would make a decision on where it'd go.

3 Q Okay. And what were the subject matter  
4 categories of one, two and three?

5 A Well, it was anti-terrorism: Red Wave, ETA,  
6 M-19; shipments of drugs: at the time, the shipments  
7 from Noriega, gun shipments to the Sandinistas. We  
8 also had developed, by this time, Caldwell penetrated  
9 into the Noriega organization. And they had an  
10 introduction for, using my work name, into Noriega's  
11 gun division. You know, the arms division. Which  
12 SouthCom wanted.

13 Q Yes?

14 A So, we were going to go and "bait and  
15 switch" Noriega by going and taking a SouthCom man of  
16 their choice, giving him my work name, send him in on  
17 that, and then when I was out of the country in an --  
18 on another operation, that he could maintain that. And  
19 when -- by the time I come back, he would have finished  
20 the penetration.

21 Q Okay. And --

22 A So, that really no one would really know the  
23 difference.

24 Q And what was the name under which you worked  
25 down there?



A Richard Williams.

Q Richard Williams. And you had a passport issued to you --

A Yes.

Q -- in that name?

A Yes.

Q And where had that passport come from, in brief?

A Well, in the United States from the intelligence community through the State Department.

Q Okay. We'll focus on some of that a little bit later. Now, so you were in this position where the you knew about this availability of this cache of weapons to M-19. And you say that seemed peculiar to you; to have these made available for free to M-19?

A Yes.

Q And what did you do to pursue that investigation? You were out of the country, you say, and you left --

A Yes.

Q -- all of these areas -- let me just stop right there -- you say that one of the areas was the location of terrorism.

A Yes.

Q Now, was your investigation of the contras



1 and the drug smuggling and Costa Rica Libre part of  
2 that investigation?

3 A Yes.

4 Q Can you explain to us what you had found  
5 about those activities?

6 A Well, what the relativity of Costa Rica  
7 Libre, M-19, ETA, and the German mafia all dealing  
8 together on that one bar, and there was transactions --  
9 you know, small gun transactions, narcotics  
10 transactions -- that went down there. And smuggling of  
11 coffee and smuggling of babies; documents from  
12 countries all over the place.

13 Q What was the name of that bar, do you  
14 remember?

15 A No. I only went in there about two or three  
16 times. The rest of the time we were sitting across the  
17 street. I got a --

18 Q Now, where -- it was located --

19 A It was -- if you walked right out of Costa  
20 Rica Libre's office, you walked right across the street  
21 and up this little hill, and it's right there.

22 Q Okay.

23 A So --

24 Q All right. So, that -- so, he's looking at  
25 all of these different issues; did you leave with Brian



1 Caldwell the responsibility to continue gathering  
2 information --

3 A Well --

4 Q -- about the arms cache?

5 A -- not exactly the responsibility. I gave  
6 him the responsibility, because everyone knew I would  
7 be out of the country --

8 Q Yes?

9 A -- that, in an emergency or in something  
10 that they felt was very important that couldn't be sat  
11 on, like a load shipment --

12 Q Yes?

13 A -- load information shipment; that Brian was  
14 capable, with the support of Scotty who was also  
15 bouncing back and forth between Honduras, Panama and  
16 Costa Rica --

17 Q Yes?

18 A But "M" was there all the time.

19 Q Yes?

20 A In the father image. So, you know, with  
21 Brian going to "M", they could take care of that.

22 Q Okay. Now, what is your understanding of  
23 what the general jurisdictional area of responsibility  
24 of Scott McDaniels was?

25 A Well, he was in charge of the contras in the



1 southern front -- that I know of.

2 Q Okay. And he was in connection with what,  
3 SouthCom?

4 A Yes.

5 Q Okay. And did you talk to Scott McDaniels  
6 about the knowledge that you were getting about the  
7 activities of certain contras in the -- with the  
8 Medellin cartel and cocaine smuggling?

9 A Yes.

10 Q And what did he say to you about that?

11 A He said he'd pass it along.

12 Q Okay. Did he tell you who he was passing  
13 things along to?

14 A Well, to the CIA and to the principals of  
15 SouthCom, which I don't know who they are.

16 Q Okay. So, you're out of the country during  
17 this time, and this is like in what? June, July --

18 A Well --

19 Q -- of 1986?

20 A -- I think it was June. I was out for the  
21 whole month of June.

22 Q Okay. So you're out in June, and you --  
23 what type of information did you leave with Brian  
24 Caldwell about this arms cache; of what should be done  
25 --



1 A Well --

2 Q -- about that?

3 A -- nothing, other than just hang on to it.  
4 You know?

5 Q Yes?

6 A Do nothing. I was told to do nothing, and  
7 we stopped right there.

8 Q Okay. So this was from "A" had told -- the  
9 person "A" had said, 'look, don't mess --

10 A Right.

11 Q -- with that, pretend you don't know  
12 anything about it', right?

13 A Right.

14 Q Okay.

15 A So, I just left it at that. Now, when I was  
16 gone, Brian was able to get the number where I was at.  
17 He called numerous times saying that he had something  
18 of extreme importance. And I told him I wasn't done  
19 with what I was doing there, it might be a week, two  
20 weeks before I could do anything. So --

21 Q Okay.

22 A And that's where it was left. When I  
23 returned --

24 Q When did you return?

25 A Well, hell, like I said -- I've got to look



1 at my passport.

2 Q Like August? I think it's like the  
3 beginning of August. Or something. You were -- this  
4 was just before Krochenberger comes in?

5 A Right.

6 Q Okay. And he came in, like, in the first  
7 week of August.

8 A Okay. So it would be a whole -- the whole  
9 month of July I was gone.

10 Q July you were gone, instead of June?

11 A Right.

12 Q Okay.

13 A Instead of June.

14 Q All right.

15 A So, anyway. The -- I come back --

16 Q To Costa Rica?

17 A -- to Costa Rica; find out that the plot to  
18 kill Oscar Arras is the motivation that the M-19's  
19 going to do it.

20 Q Okay. Now, let's slow down there. You said  
21 you had discovered earlier, before you left, that  
22 somehow this whole cache of weapons that had been  
23 brought in to give to the contras in northern Costa  
24 Rica --

25 A Right.



1 Q -- was all of sudden all packaged up and was  
2 being made available to M-19 for free?

3 A Right.

4 Q And what did you come to learn was the  
5 purpose, if any, for giving this free cache of weapons  
6 to --

7 THE WITNESS: (To the reporter) Hold it.

8 MR. SHEEHAN: Yes; hold it.

9 MS. REPORTER: We'll go off the record.

10 (OFF THE RECORD)

11 MS. REPORTER: We're back on the record.

12 Q Mr. Kelso, we had just begun to talk about  
13 your return to Costa Rica at the beginning of August of  
14 1986. You say you returned and you apparently had  
15 contact with Mr. Caldwell, and he told you about some  
16 time of plot to assassinate Oscar Arras, the president  
17 of Costa Rica; is that correct?

18 A Yes.

19 Q Explain to us what that was all about.

20 A What it amounted to is, the M-19 was hired -  
21 - at that time, I didn't know by who -- to do Oscar  
22 Arras.

23 Q Yes?

24 A I didn't have a location, or a time;  
25 nothing.



1 Q Yes?  
2 A Through further research and documentation  
3 of certain other little hints to give us direction, it  
4 was brought out, or came out, of when and where this  
5 was going to take place. With Krochenberger and  
6 another member of U.S. Customs from the Panama office,  
7 or Panama embassy, I told them that this was  
8 developing.

9 And they showed great concern, especially  
10 the man from Panama. And he asked me to give him  
11 advisement of how I wanted to handle it, and or have  
12 him use his capacity to aid us in getting at Oscar  
13 Arras to warn him.

14 Q Yes?

15 A And which we didn't need any help and told  
16 him if we ran into a problem, I'd let him know.

17 Q Okay.

18 A Now, beyond that a matter of a couple days,  
19 I sat down with Alex McNulte and Warren Tris, and "M"  
20 in a room, that I knew as being monitored by SouthCom  
21 for purposes of just like that.

22 Q Okay. So, now, let's take it -- one second.  
23 Who was Alex McNulte?

24 A Alex McNulte, at the time, was first in  
25 command for the secret service protecting Oscar Arras



in Costa Rica.

Q Okay. And who was Warren Tris?

A Warren Tris was involved in SouthCo indirect and direct with the intelligence comm living down in Costa Rica.

Q Okay. And you sat in a room that y was monitored by SouthCom intelligence --

A Yes.

Q -- military intelligence --

A Yes.

Q -- and you began to discuss what?

A Well, I went and after I couldn't advisement from other agents that I needed -- directive -- I then went and talked to Alex M Warren Tris about the situation. And told tr what was going to happen.

Q Let me ask this. What was the bas information that you -- what was it that you Brian Caldwell and pursued through your own investigations that led you to come to this that this was getting ready to happen?

A Well, I had a direct link in M-19 member of the M-19 told us directly that the existed and that -- what, how they were gett And that -- what they were going to do next.



1 the same time, he didn't know where or when.

2 Q How did he say they were getting paid?

3 A From those weapons.

4 Q So, that he told you that the cache of  
5 weapons that you had discovered in the warehouse up on  
6 -- in the north of Costa Rica that had been brought in  
7 for the contras were being given to the M-19 in payment  
8 for them assassinating Oscar Arras?

9 A Yes.

10 Q Okay. Who was it that had custody of those  
11 weapons at that warehouse?

12 A I don't know. The person guarding the  
13 warehouse was easily decoyed away and we were able to  
14 get one person in to the warehouse to get some serial  
15 numbers. Then we set up another person in to there who  
16 was a known black market arms dealer. And he actually  
17 got to have a tour up there. And, this is how we  
18 extracted -- excuse me -- some of the information.

19 Q Yes? Who were the principals from whom he  
20 was going to be, conceivably, purchasing this -- some  
21 of these weapons?

22 A What do you mean?

23 Q The black market person that you put in.

24 A Oh, the black market person.

25 Q Who was he dealing with --



1 A Representing Yasdannii.  
2 Q Who is it?  
3 A Yasdannii.  
4 Q How do you spell that?  
5 A I don't even have a clue.  
6 Q "Y-A-S-D-A-N-N-I".  
7 A It's an Iranian name.  
8 Q Yasdannii?  
9 A Yes, the --  
10 Q Okay.  
11 A -- the accountant or treasurer for the Shah.  
12 Q Okay. And he was the man that had custody  
13 of those weapons that was purporting to sell them --  
14 A No.  
15 Q -- or to put them on the market?  
16 A No, no, no, no, no, no.  
17 Q Okay.  
18 A I was able to coerce Yasdannii's man to  
19 approach the people at the warehouse --  
20 Q Yes?  
21 A -- to make a probe at the warehouse of how  
22 much they wanted for them, what method of payment --  
23 Q Yes?  
24 A -- you know. And so forth. And that's how  
25 it was done.



1 Q Yes. But, were you able to ascertain who  
2 the people were that were undertaking the sale?

3 A No.

4 Q Okay. So, then you left and went out of the  
5 country. And you came back after being told to stay  
6 away from the whole investigation.

7 A No, this is after I returned.

8 Q Okay. You returned and you were told --

9 A And --

10 Q -- by your contact --

11 A -- by --

12 Q -- inside M-19 --

13 A Yes. Well, Brian brought it up to light,  
14 and then I contacted my man in M-19 and I had other  
15 sources that also brought up that same information.

16 Q Yes.

17 A And totally, we had about five sources  
18 totally separate from each other coming up with the  
19 same information.

20 Q That this cache of weapons was being  
21 transferred to M-19?

22 A No, that the M-19 was going to do Oscar  
23 Arras.

24 Q Okay. And it was just the one guy inside M-  
25 19 who told you that the method of payment for this was



1 this cache of weapons that you had discovered earlier -

2 -

3 A Yes.

4 Q -- being given to M-19 for free?

5 A That's correct.

6 Q Okay. And then what did you do?

7 A Well, from there it -- we kept, you know,  
8 doing our research, trying to draw out when and where.

9 Q Yes?

10 A And, in a meeting with Alex McNulte -- which  
11 was the first meeting that I had with him -- excuse me  
12 -- Alex brought out the point of Oscar Arras going to  
13 Bogota for the inauguration of the president in Bogota.  
14 Which, automatically, that set off every bell, buzzer  
15 and gong that I had.

16 Now, I went and proposed a couple ideas to  
17 inhibit Oscar Arras' travel to Bogota, both through  
18 diplomatic channels, through military request channels  
19 and through making sure the airplane wouldn't fly.

20 Q Okay. His airplane?

21 A So -- Yeah.

22 Q Okay. Now, did you have any communication  
23 with Scott McDaniels to tell him about this information  
24 you were getting?

25 A Yes.



1 Q And did you ask for any directive from him  
2 as to what to do?

3 A Yes.

4 Q And what --

5 A For over a week.

6 Q And what did he tell you?

7 A Well, he never called me. Finally, I picked  
8 up the telephone and called him at the safe house in  
9 Panama, that -- where he was at. And, I asked him on --  
10 -- what should I do on the situation. And, he wouldn't  
11 give me a yes or no, or -- excuse me -- any comment.

12 Q Did you specifically ask him whether you  
13 should take steps to stop this assassination?

14 A Yes.

15 Q And did he tell you, 'yes, you should have'?

16 A No. He wouldn't say anything.

17 Q And did you, at least over the phone,  
18 confront him on that and say, 'look it, won't you --

19 A Yes.

20 Q -- give me a directive to --

21 A Yes.

22 Q -- stop this thing'?

23 A Yes. I told him, "this time the  
24 ramifications are so big; cut the bullshit. Tell me  
25 yes or no. Is this a project or is this, you know, a



2 Q Yes?

3 A And he got infurious (sic) and said, 'I  
4 can't tell you'. And left it at that.

5 Q Okay. Did you contact Larry LaDage about  
6 this?

7 A Yes. Larry was briefed ahead of time of  
8 that.

9 Q Okay. And what did he say?

10 A He said that he was researching it and found  
11 nothing on any level of any stop gaps.

12 Q What does that mean?

13 A No one is telling us to stop, okay?

14 Q Okay.

15 A No one's telling us to back off. See, and  
6 standard procedure is, is when you're stepping on  
7 somebody's toes, generally the telephone rings or a  
8 message gets delivered for you to back off and go  
9 somewhere else.

0 Q Okay. So that you were engaged in an effort  
to try to stop this assassination and you were looking  
for Larry LaDage to tell you whether or not there was a  
command for you to stand away from that mission?

A Yes.

Q And he said there was none?



1 A There was none.

2 Q Okay.

3 A Larry LaDage, through Jim, up there they  
4 were doing the research for almost two weeks, three  
5 weeks.

6 Q Yes?

7 A And found nothing.

8 Q Okay. Did you establish contact with "M" --

9 A Yes.

10 Q -- before you contacted McDaniels and asked

11 --

12 A Yes.

13 Q -- him for some direction?

14 A Yes.

15 Q What did he say?

16 A He said that he was worried because that  
17 blow a bunch of operations that they were setting up  
18 with the contras. And that this situation was a  
19 legitimate terrorist act in his eyes.

20 Q Okay. So he, in effect, said as far as he  
21 was concerned you should go forward to stop this thing

22 --

23 A Yes.

24 Q -- from happening?

25 A Yes.



1 Q And, so, both LaDage affirmed your desire to  
2 stop the operation; "M" affirmed it. But, when you got  
3 all the way up to McDaniels, he wouldn't tell you to  
4 stop it?

5 A Right.

6 Q Even through you specifically demanded that  
7 he tell you to stop it?

8 A That's correct.

9 Q And he wouldn't?

10 A That's correct.

11 Q Now, did you undertake to communicate to any  
12 Central Intelligence Agency channel this information?

13 A That was already done.

14 Q Okay. You had already done that?

15 A Through Larry.

16 Q Okay. Larry LaDage had done that?

17 A Yes.

18 Q Okay. Then tell us what happened. What did  
19 -- you say you took these steps to see that the plane

20 --

21 A Well --

22 Q -- wouldn't leave and --

23 A Yes. Arrangements were made quietly, so  
24 that the presidential jet couldn't leave San Jose  
25 airport without paying it's existing fuel bill first.



1 Q Yes?

2 A And that infuriated Oscar Arras. But it was  
3 the easiest way, quietest way, lowest -- most low key.  
4 Then it got suggested to him, because it was a Sunday  
5 that he was trying to leave, that he couldn't pay the  
6 bill on Sunday.

7 Q Yes?

8 A Which, you know, it got humorous for us.

9 Q Yes?

10 A Because all this time, it was buying time,  
11 for us to get more insight. Give us -- I mean, you  
12 know, talk to us.

13 Q Yes?

14 A Give us a directive, you know. With all the  
15 people down there, and everyone kept saying it's a  
16 terrorist act, you know.

17 Q Okay.

18 A To just follow text book. So, I did. Now,  
19 the thing is, is that through Alex, a jet -- or pushing  
20 Arras to lease another jet from Texas. And it came  
21 down, picked him up and they went down to Bogota.

22 Q Yes?

23 A But, other members of Oscar Arras' -- if you  
24 want to say -- cabinet or business associates --

25 Q Yes?



1 A -- kept pushing Oscar Arras not to take any  
2 members of DIS and not to take any, you know, Alex or  
3 any of his other presidential members to --

4 Q Colombia?

5 A -- Colombia.

6 Q Okay. Now, was it ever confirmed that this  
7 attempt was actually underway against Arras by M-19?

8 A Yes.

9 Q How did they do that? What information did  
10 you have about that?

11 A Well, we had it from the M-19 members that  
12 packed their gear and went down there for --

13 Q Yes?

14 A -- to do the job. Also, meeting other  
15 members that were living down there.

16 Q Yes?

17 A And mobilizing them.

18 Q Were any steps taken to interdict them?

19 A To interdict them; no, not directly.

20 Q Well, what happened?

21 A Well, what happened was -- is that a  
22 decision was made in Washington to beef up secret  
23 service on the airplane -- the jet going down there.

24 Q Okay.

25 A And they went and interceded with the Bogota



1 police and -- or, you know, security forces -- and was  
2 able to apprehend quite a few members of M-19 involved  
3 in the scam.

4 Q Okay. In the plan to kill him?

5 A Yes.

6 Q Did they ever convict any of them for doing  
7 that? Or take any law enforcement --

8 A As far as I know, they killed a handful of  
9 them, and captured the rest of them. And, you know, I  
10 paid no more attention to it.

11 Q Okay. Now, did Oscar Arras, in fact, send a  
12 letter to the White House in the United States,  
13 specifically thanking you by name for participating in  
14 helping to stop that?

15 A What happened there was that the letter  
16 came, with Arras' permission from Alex McNulte on the  
17 behalf of the president.

18 Q Okay.

19 A It did go to the White House. They left my  
20 name off it, because of, at the time when that letter  
21 was written, I had left Costa Rica to come back up  
22 here.

23 Q Okay. But did it name --

24 A It named --

25 Q -- LaDage?



1 A Yes. It named Larry LaDage; it named Brian  
2 Caldwell; and they deleted my name at the bequest of  
3 "M" and Warren Tris.

4 Q Okay.

5 A Because they were mad that I made a phone  
6 call and an hour and a half later, I had my plane  
7 ticket and I was ready to hook it.

8 Q Yes?

9 A And when they asked to get dusted off, no  
10 one would help them.

11 Q I hear -- well, we're --

12 A They refused them.

13 Q -- we're going to cover this.

14 A Yeah.

15 Q Now, based on the investigative information  
16 that you gathered with regard to that assassination  
17 attempt; did you form any conclusion as to where the  
18 plot had originated and who was behind that plot to  
19 kill Arras?

20 A The bottom line was, is that there was a  
21 group of Americans that tried to accelerate the U.S.  
22 military insurgency into Panama and they referred it to  
23 as the "48 hour sweep". Because they were going to  
24 sweep Panama, Costa Rica and Nicaragua all at once.

25 Q And what was this? What information did you



1 get about this "48 hour sweep" operation?

2 A I just told you. It's -- that that's what  
3 -- this was part of that plan.

4 Q To carry out the assassination of Arras?

5 A Arras, to accelerate the importance and  
6 insurgency to invade Nicaragua, Panama and Costa Rica,  
all at the same time. By U.S. troops.

Q Okay. And who, based on your investigative  
information, was behind that plan?

A Well --

Q You say it's some group of Americans?

A Yes. That -- all I knew is a group of  
Americans, "A" being one of the principals in it,  
amongst other people.

Q This person "A"?

A Yes.

17 Q Was John Hull involved in it?

18 A I don't know.

19 Q You don't know?

20 A I mean, I have nothing to draw that directly  
21 back --

22 Q Yes?

23 A -- other than the people that went up on the  
24 contra camps to pick up the guns. You know, the used  
25 weapons and weapons involved in the payment.



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3 -- this was part of that plan.

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21 back --

22 Q Yes?

23 A -- other than the people that went up on the  
24 contra camps to pick up the guns. You know, the used  
25 weapons and weapons involved in the payment.



1 Q To gather -- you mean to gather that --

2 A Right.

3 Q -- that payment together?

4 A Right. Had total access and total command  
5 to tell the contras what to do. Otherwise, the contras  
6 wouldn't have gave up their guns.

7 Q Okay. Who was it that participated in  
8 gathering all those weapons from them?

9 A I have no idea. No idea.

10 Q Okay. Now, you stated that -- I think there  
11 was another matter -- you stated that when you were  
12 investigating this M-19 group and the involvement in  
13 the assassination attempt, that there was a -- I'm  
14 trying to think -- there was another base --

15 I'll have to get back to that later, I'm not  
16 familiar with. There's some other issue I want to  
17 question you about in there, but --

18 Now, you stated that when you left Costa  
19 Rica for that month of July of 1986, that you had been  
20 investigating this terrorist program or operations  
21 going on in Costa Rica; is that correct?

22 A Yes.

23 Q What information had you developed about  
24 there being a right wing terrorist infra-structure in  
25 Costa Rica, if any, working with these cocaine



1 traffickers?

2 A Well, there was a operation that the  
3 Russians were running called the "Red Wave". And we  
4 recovered one of their training manuals.

5 Q Yes?

6 A Then from that, you know. It all stems back  
7 to Costa Rica Libre and M-19 and ETA and that. I mean,  
8 they ran training bases in Costa Rica pretty much like  
9 they have a resort. I mean --

10 Q Yes? Now, you say --

11 A -- you know, it was uninhibited.

12 Q -- you said that the M-19 group was working  
13 under Carlos Lieder?

14 A Yes.

15 Q Is that correct?

16 A Yes.

17 Q And the Costa Rica Libre group was working  
18 -- the man who was the head of that gave you Richard  
19 Secord's and Jack Singlaub's telephone numbers for  
20 reference.

21 A Yeah.

22 Q Is that correct?

23 A Yes.

24 Q And, so when you left all of that  
25 information to Brian Caldwell when you left, did you



1 come to any conclusion that this undertaking against  
2 Oscar Arras in this "48 hour sweep" operation that you  
3 were talking about, was somehow connected with the  
4 right wing elements in Costa Rica participating in --

5 A Well --

6 Q -- in that operation as --

7 A -- the part of the --

8 Q -- agents of some sort?

9 A -- part of the M-19 was also doing testing,  
10 where they'd go and, on one side of San Jose open up  
11 machine gun fire and then time how long the Rural Guard  
12 would take to get there.

13 Q Yes?

14 A And they were desensitizing the Rural Guard  
15 for like four or five months with gun fire --

16 Q Yes?

17 A -- on almost a nightly basis.

18 Q Yes?

19 A To slow down their response and that. And  
20 the request for back-up and --

21 Q Okay.

22 A -- and along those lines. But, you know, it  
23 all stems back to one thing; of the intrinsic value of  
24 what they were doing at the time. You know, why would  
25 they want Oscar Arras dead, you know?



1 Q Yes?

2 A So --

3 Q Now, you mentioned a name in connection with  
4 the Medellin cartel cocaine trafficking activities in  
5 Costa Rica; about a man by the name of Odibar.

6 A Right.

7 Q Is that Daniel Odibar, the former president  
8 of Costa Rica?

9 A Yes.

10 Q And what information did you develop about  
11 his participation with these right wing elements and  
12 the cocaine trafficking?

13 A Well, I mean, just the usual shipments.  
14 Participation in labs; participation in money  
15 movements. And that's where it's at.

16 Q Yes?

17 A You know, that's bottom line. He was seen  
18 at other meetings. You know, with all the members  
19 present.

20 Q Who were participating in the cocaine  
21 trafficking and laboratories?

22 A Yes.

23 Q Okay.

24 MR. SHEEHAN: Why don't we take a -- about a  
25 -- it's about twenty after. Why don't we take



about a ten minute break; just relax, and walk around, stretch a little bit? And then we'll come back at 11:30 and continue until lunch time.

Okay? Is that acceptable?

THE WITNESS: Yeah, that's fine.

MS. REPORTER: We'll go off the record.

(OFF THE RECORD)

MS. REPORTER: We're on the record, at the beginning of videotape number 2 in the deposition of Joe Kelso.

Q Mr. Kelso, you were -- just before the break, we were talking about your return to Costa Rica in around the first week of August of 1986, when you talked with Caldwell and discovered this Arras thing going on. Okay?

Now, when you came back to Costa Rica, did you have any communication with Mr. Douglas Krochenberger?

A Yes.

Q Now, you'd referred to him earlier as one of the Customs officers from the New Orleans office; is that correct?

A That's correct.

Q Okay. Explain to us what happened and what communications you had?



1           A       Okay. He came there, and he was stalled --  
2       where the State Department stalled at getting stalled  
3       his paper work done. And the reason why that was is a  
4       counterfeiting operation that I was working on busting  
5       --

6           The Secret Service asked the State  
7       Department to slow down Krochenberger from coming down  
8       there because the operation wasn't ready to be popped  
9       because they were nervous about the -- either the  
10      plates disappearing or the money disappearing before we  
11      could mount an overt operation.

12          Q       Yes? Okay.

13          A       And this again involved embassy people, in  
14      the counterfeiting operation.

15          Q       Did it involve Mr. Nevas or any of his  
16      associates in DEA?

17          A       His associates in DEA; yes.

18          Q       Okay.

19          A       So --

20          Q       Now, did it involve any of the defendants in  
21      this case; Mr. Secord, Mr. Singlaub, Mr. Hull --

22          A       I don't know. Mr. "A", who is also an  
23      associate of the enterprise -- I shouldn't say  
24      'associate', another member of the enterprise would be  
25      the terminology -- did, in fact, pay with counterfeit



3           A       Then another situation developed later on  
4 another counterfeiting operation, that he supposedly  
5 "investigated". But I don't know whether they actually  
6 did that or go and --

7           Q       Okay.

8           A       You know, I don't know what the disposition  
9 was. I wasn't involved in it.

10          Q       All right. But, in any event, when Mr.  
11 Krochenberger was going to be -- was planning to come  
12 down to Costa Rica --

13          A       Yes.

14          Q       -- to meet with you in that first week of  
15 August, when --

16          A       Yes.

17          Q       -- you came back to Costa Rica; is that  
18 correct?

19          A       That's correct.

20          Q       And did there come a point in time that he  
21 did arrive in Costa Rica?

22          A       That's correct.

23          Q       Okay. And then what happened?

24          A       Well, we sat up in the Holiday Inn having  
25 our meeting and the --



Q And who --

A -- head of Customs --

Q Who was there?

A Well, myself, the head of Customs from Panama -- or the embassy in Panama -- was there at the meeting.

Q Do you remember his name?

A No, not off-hand.

Q Was that Ed Welsh?

A No.

Q Or Walsh? No?

A No.

Q Okay.

A That's somebody else.

Q Okay.

A Okay. Now, he was a senior with a lot of miles on how the world really turns out of the United States.

Q Yes?

A Krochenberger was a "newbie" all the way; on travelling and -- you know, 'well, the director told me I had to go and report to Nevas', you know, 'when I arrived'. And 'I have to do this', and 'I have to do that'. And 'they got me a hotel room' -- which was wired to the hilt. And, you know, on and on and on.



1 Q Yes?

2 A So, finally I got him out of that hotel,  
3 moved him over to the Holiday Inn where there wasn't  
4 any problems in that room that he was at, unbeknownst  
5 to the embassy. Which pissed off people.

6 Q Yes?

7 A And then, got him squared away there. We  
8 had our meeting there. I told him and gave him the  
9 relative maps. His -- Krochenberger's job was to carry  
10 plates back, take receipts from the Costa Rican  
11 National Security people, and be signator on receiving  
12 the plates and then returning the plates to Larry  
13 LaDage.

14 Q This is -- these are the counterfeiting  
15 plates?

16 A Yes, counterfeiting plates.

17 Q Yes?

18 A The Secret Service came down there earlier  
19 and missed the meeting and wanted to get involved in  
20 the direct operation. Once again, Krochenberger was  
21 still going to take receipt of the plates, even though  
22 the Secret Service was going to participate and be the  
23 responsible person to bring them back.

24 Q Okay. So, he came back in, you briefed him  
25 on the counterfeiting operation --



1           A       The counterfeiting, drugs, the laboratories,  
2 Arras situation -- I directed, not so much at  
3 Krochenberger, but I directed it to the Customs man  
4 from Panama embassy.

5           Q       Right.

6           A       If he could make some inquiries for me in  
7 that neighborhood.

8           Q       Okay.

9           A       Which he did.

10          Q       So, now focussing on the issue of the  
11 cocaine trafficking -- the Medellin cartel member --

12          A       Right.

13          Q       -- activities in Costa Rica; their working  
14 with Costa Rica Libre, and these ultra-right elements  
15 --

16          A       Umm hmm.

17          Q       -- in the area -- when you briefed him --  
18 that's Doug Krochenberger -- about these things, did  
19 you provide to him documented evidence showing where  
20 these laboratories were and give him names --

21          A       Yes.

22          Q       -- of witnesses, et cetera?

23          A       Yes.

24          Q       And did he tape-record these meetings?

25          A       Yes; he tape-recorded the meetings and he



1 received documentation of that.

2 Q Okay. Now -- and how much time did you  
3 spend with him, debriefing him -- or him debriefing  
4 you?

5 A About two days.

6 Q Two days; okay. And you gave him names of  
7 sources and locations of cocaine laboratories and --

8 A Yes.

9 Q -- names of participants in the cocaine  
10 smuggling?

11 A Yep.

12 Q You gave him information about Nevas?

13 A Well, at that time, I told him -- both of  
14 them about the existing problem at the embassy with  
15 security. And they were well aware of the passport  
16 situation; that one that shut down the embassy and --

17 Q Yes?

18 A -- that and who caused it. Then, we also  
19 talked more the DEA; that there is implications here of  
20 the DEA, direct participation thereof in these labs.

21 Q Okay. Now, you had told Mr. LaDage about  
22 your primary source "Y" and what -- and the information  
23 about these six separate sources -- the CR security  
24 officer and the former diplomat and others. You had  
25 passed that on directly to LaDage. Had you not given



1 that to Krochenberger? You had given that to LaDag  
2 instead?

3 A Well, some of the names and that did go  
4 to Krochenberger in a package to Jim and Larry.

5 Q Okay.

6 A Okay? But, he didn't know what it was.

7 Q Okay.

8 A He looked in it to make sure that he was  
9 "smuggling" anything back he shouldn't.

10 Q Yes?

11 A So, he saw there was cassette tapes,  
12 microcassettes. He saw there was printed document  
13 sealed it, signed it and that was it. It was on i  
14 way.

15 Q Okay. So that when you sat down with I  
16 Krochenberger in that first week of August of 1981  
17 in San Jose, Costa Rica, what was your state of  
18 knowledge as to his knowledge of the evidence aga  
19 Nevas and Sandy Gonzales --

20 A Absolutely none.

21 Q So, he just didn't know?

22 A He didn't know.

23 Q Was there any reason why you didn't br  
24 him on that, when he was sitting there?

25 A Yes. I was told from Larry that the



1 new, you know. He trusts him, but be careful.

2 Q Yes?

3 A You know, he might slip. So, that's why  
4 they -- Jim had had it reinforced with him -- the  
5 Customs person from Panama -- because he was senior to  
6 Krochenberger.

7 Q Yes?

8 A And, at the same time, we had the stake-out  
9 running on Vesco.

10 Q Yes?

11 A So, the telephone was ringing constantly.

12 Q Okay.

13 A Now, the other thing is, is that during that  
14 meeting we told Krochenberger -- myself and this  
15 Customs man from Panama -- 'just go in there, tell  
16 Nevas that well, it was a flaky deal and they're --  
17 you're going home; you didn't find anything'.

18 Q Okay. Did --

19 A And just pack all the information up, jump  
20 on the airplane and keep his mouth shut and deliver it  
21 to Larry. And Larry would advise him what to do.

22 Q Okay. Now, was Krochenberger authorized to  
23 tell Nevas about the counterfeit plates?

24 A No.

25 Q Why was it that Krochenberger was going to



1 go talk to Nevas --

2 A Because --

3 Q -- without revealing to him that there was  
4 some narcotics investigation going on?

5 A Right. The -- well --

6 Q How could he do that?

7 A He could do it because that's what happens,  
8 okay?

9 Q Yes?

10 A I mean, that's how the real world happens.

11 Q Yes?

12 A You don't, you know, you don't need to tell  
13 everybody everything what you're fucking doing.

14 Q Yes?

15 A Okay?

16 Q Yes?

17 A Now, the problem is, is that the -- if we  
18 had this rumor, okay -- hypothetically --

19 Q Yes, yes.

20 A -- if we had this rumor and either qualified  
21 it or disqualified it, going and telling this person  
22 about you're doing research on him, qualifying it or  
23 disqualifying it --

24 Q Right.

25 A -- would be stupid.



1 Q That's right.

2 A Because if he is doing it, he would normally  
3 head over the hill or protect himself well enough that  
4 it -- no one could touch him.

5 Q Right.

6 A In theory.

7 Q Right. Okay, but the -- as you left this  
8 two day briefing with Krochenberger and the head of DIA  
9 down in Central America based in Panama in the embassy,  
10 it was your understanding that as he was leaving, and  
11 you had told him not to basically say anything about  
12 what the content of the briefing was to Nevas --

13 A He had explicit orders not to say anything  
14 to Nevas. Number one from me, number two from the  
15 gentleman from Panama --

16 Q Yes?

17 A -- which was senior to him. To keep his  
18 mouth shut, go in there, tell him he found nothing,  
19 that it was a waste of time, get back on the airplane  
20 immediately with all the documentation --

21 Q Yes?

22 A -- and get the hell out of town.

23 Q Okay. And so at the time that you separated  
24 from him -- from Krochenberger -- you were under the  
25 impression that that is what he was going to do with



1        regard to Nevas?

2            A        Yes. And he was supposed to receive the  
3 plates, which he chickened out of. He wouldn't rece  
4 the plates.

5            Q        Okay. So, he leaves. Did you have any  
6 private conversation with the head of Customs based  
7 Panama, other than your direct conversations with  
8 Krochenberger?

9            A        Yes.

10          Q        And did you tell him anything about Neva

11          A        Yes. I mean, we had some more direct  
12 conversations about it.

13          Q        Okay.

14          A        And, I mean, there -- it focussed a litt  
15 bit more; the conversation.

16          Q        But you -- you don't remember what that  
17 guy's name is?

18          A        No.

19          Q        Okay. So, you talked more about Nevas  
20 him?

21          A        Yes.

22          Q        Did you communicate enough information  
23 that man who is the head of Customs down there to  
24 communicated to him the danger of revealing any of  
25 information --



1 A Yes.

2 Q -- to Nevas; how it could backfire?

3 A Yes. He also got very upset with  
4 Krochenberger, because Krochenberger says, 'wow, that's  
5 not State Department policy. I can't do that; I'm  
6 going to get in trouble'.

7 Q Yes?

8 A And then he got mad, and started telling  
9 Krochenberger exactly what happens and what he will be  
10 faced with in order to get this done. And the  
11 ramifications of whether he does it the way he's told  
12 to do, or does it the way he wants to do it.

13 Q Yes?

14 A And, instead Krochenberger traded us off.

15 Q Okay. So, somewhere around -- I believe it  
16 was -- August, my general recollection is around August  
17 6th or so that Krochenberger came down and had the  
18 debriefing with you. So, somewhere around the 8th or  
19 so, he would have gone to see Nevas.

20 Tell us what happened then.

21 A Well, shortly after that, I'm at Caldwell's  
22 room. And --

23 Q And where is that?

24 A At the Irazu.

25 Q Right.



1           A       Riveras walks in with two Costa Rican OIJ  
2 people.

3           Q       And Riveras is the number three man in --

4           A       DEA --

5           Q       -- DEA --

6           A       -- right.

7           Q       -- under Nevas?

8           A       He comes stomping in there and demanding to  
9 see Caldwell and stuff.

10          Q       Yes?

11          A       Two of my people who just went to the  
12 grocery store came back with groceries and we were  
13 going to do lunch and that.

14          Q       Yes?

15          A       And, you know, he starting getting  
16 demanding. These two --

17          Q       Who; Riveras?

18          A       Yeah.

19          Q       Right.

20          A       These two of my guys saw the OIJ guys down  
21 there, playing 50 questions.

22          Q       Yes?

23          A       And I had my hand crossed across my chest,  
24 you know, just like this (indicating).

25          Q       Yes?



1 A Okay. With my hand on my gun.

2 Q Yes?

3 A Because I recognized who he was.

4 Q Yes?

5 A And he was --

6 Q And you had information that Riveras was  
7 dirty along with Nevas?

8 A Yes.

9 Q Okay.

10 A And I was waiting for him either to make a  
11 play or find out what he wanted.

12 Q Yes?

13 A And he saw a couple rolled up maps, and he  
14 started yelling, you know, 'are those some of those  
15 goddamned maps', you know, 'floating around here?' And  
16 'we want those'. And started taking them.

17 Q Yes?

18 A I asked him, you know, "do you mind showing  
19 some documentation?" And he said, 'sure'. And, you  
20 know, he said, 'I'm with the embassy'. And I said,  
21 "great, that's a neat building. Where?"

22 And he says, 'well, what's it to you?' And  
23 I says, "well, I'm asking you; you're in a room here  
24 and you're demanding things. You're touching private  
25 property." I said, "now, I'm demanding right now that



1 you show your I.D."

2 And he says, 'well, I don't have to.' I  
3 said, "pull up to your chained drive and show it to me  
4 right now."

5 Q Yes?

6 A And all this time, I got my hand on my gun.

7  
8 Q Yes?

9 A And he saw me standing there with my hand on  
10 my gun.

11 Q Yes?

12 A And he pulled it out and showed it to me.  
13 And I said, "thank you."

14 Q That's his chained I.D.?

15 A Right.

16 Q Yes?

17 A And I said, you know, "wasn't that easy?"  
18 He said, 'well, you son of a bitch, who are you?' And  
19 I told him, "Williams." He says, 'well, I'm looking  
20 for you, too.' And I said, "great. What do you want  
21 me for?"

22 And all the time, my backup is standing  
23 right outside the hotel room.

24 Q Yes?

25 A You know? And the door is open. And so one



1 or them runs upstairs to notify the DOD people.  
2 Q One of your backup guys?  
3 A One of my backup guys --  
4 Q Right.  
5 A -- notifies the other DOD --  
6 Q Right.  
7 A -- and the ODC people.  
8 Q All right. What does ODC stand for?  
9 A Well, it's just a -- it's part of the DOD.  
10 So --  
11 Q Okay.  
12 A -- anyway, the DOD guys are all up in the  
13 lobby and that. And you know, cordoning off the exits.  
14 Q Right.  
15 A And they start making demands, and they  
16 says, you know --  
17 Q This is Riveras?  
18 A Yeah. 'Where's your -- where -- how do you  
19 have this gun? This is an illegal gun.' And I says,  
20 "fuck you." You know, "I got my license." So I showed  
21 them my permit to carry, my permit to possess --  
22 Q Yes?  
23 A -- and to purchase.  
24 Q Yes?  
25 A And it totally wiggled him out. He says,



1 'these are counterfeit; these can't be real'. So, he  
2 handed it to the OIJ guys; the OIJ guys come back and  
3 say, you know, 'it's real'.

4 Q Yes?

5 A And then, he got real upset and saying,  
6 'well, I'm confiscating this' and 'I'm confiscating  
7 these maps' and 'I'm confiscating that' --

8 Q What -- he was after the maps and what else?

9 A Maps, my permits, gun, you know, all that  
10 stuff.

11 Q Yes?

12 A He started confiscating everything in the  
13 room.

14 Q Yes?

15 A Tried to do notebooks, things like that. My  
16 briefcase.

17 Q Yes?

18 A Anyway, I said, "okay, pick your own  
19 poison", you know? "No problem; let's go." He says,  
20 'well, I want you to come down to the U.S. embassy'.  
21 And I says, "no problem. I'm more than happy to do  
22 that. We'll get all this bullshit out in the air for  
23 once."

24 Q Yes?

25 A And he said, 'well, gee', you know? And I



1 said, "I have no problem going down to the embassy, but  
2 I'm going to make a telephone call and tell them I'm  
3 going down there." 'Oh, no; we can't let you do that'.

4 And I said, "well, I'll tell you what". And  
5 I says, "I don't make the phone call, if I make one  
6 move in here and, you know, there will be problems."  
7 'Well, what are you talking about?'

8 And I said, "it's none of your damn  
9 business. That -- you know -- I am going to follow my  
10 procedures that I am told. And before I go down to the  
11 embassy, I am going to pick up the telephone and tell  
12 them that I'm coming down there."

13 'Well, you don't need to do that.' And I  
14 said, "have it your way. Let's go." So, I walked out  
15 there and I signalled our guys for backup and they  
16 monitored the whole situation, right?

17 Q Yes?

18 A I'm going out. And I made a motion that,  
19 you know, I wasn't carrying.

20 Q Yes?

21 A You know? Because they saw my holster --

22 Q Yes?

23 A -- because I had this shirt on, and -- you  
24 know -- they just assumed. But then I went like that  
25 (indicating) --



1 Q Yes?

2 A -- you know, and they knew it was empty.

3 Q Yes?

4 A So, they followed us. And where he took us  
5 was a place called "ICE" -- you know, Ice.

6 Q Yes; Ice.

7 A Which is the power company.

8 Q He took you to the ICE building?

9 A Yeah. Okay.

10 Q Well, that's interesting.

11 A And --

12 Q I mean, I -- because I know why it  
13 interesting.

14 A Yeah. Well, they took us there, and you  
15 know, he's getting, you know, real mellow and laid  
16 back. And Brian's getting pissed, because all this  
17 time, is -- he's telling the OIJ guys how bad we were  
18 and all these criminal activities and this, that and  
19 the other thing. And we're gun smugglers and drug  
20 smugglers --

21 Q Wait a sec -- wait a second -- hold it.  
22 Let's -- wait a second, now. Did Caldwell come to --  
23 was he in his room?

24 A He was there also.

25 Q When they came?



1 A Right.

2 Q Okay. And what's he doing -- coughing up --  
3 what's he doing?

4 A No. He's just scared shitless and just  
5 standing there.

6 Q Yes?

7 A You know? And he didn't know what to say  
8 when he was there. I mean, he's started --

9 Q Yes?

10 A -- to shit his pants right away.

11 Q Yes?

12 A And that's where I ended up going and  
13 forcing him into showing his I.D. and the whole bit.

14 Q Right.

15 A Now, the other thing is, is Brian doesn't  
16 realize that we got backup.

17 Q Right.

18 A Okay? But, anyway, we go down to the ICE  
19 place.

20 Q Yes.

21 A You know? And I'm calm, cool, collect, you  
22 know. And this guy's rattling on, you know, trying to  
23 make us look like two assholes.

24 Q Why is he doing that?

25 A Oh, he's setting us up. But, the --



1 Q You mean, Caldwell is?  
2 A No, no, no. Not Caldwell --  
3 Q Oh.  
4 A -- the DEA agent.  
5 Q Oh, this is Riveras?  
6 A Yes.  
7 Q Okay. He's the one saying that you're  
8 dirtball criminals and all that --  
9 A Right. Right. Major --  
10 Q -- kind of stuff? Okay.  
11 A Yeah, major problem; all this other stuff.  
12 Q Yes, right, right.  
13 A Right.  
14 Q Okay.  
15 A And so, anyway I'm just calm --  
16 Q I was confused. I thought you said Caldwell  
17 was saying that.  
18 A You know, Caldwell's getting all upset --  
19 Q Yes?  
20 A -- because Riveras is saying it. And he's  
21 telling the OIJ guys that this isn't true.  
22 Q Yes?  
23 A And the problem is, is one of the OIJ guys  
24 saw some of his people in the lobby, which made him  
25 nervous. Okay? Because one of them was from national



1 security.

2 Q Yes?

3 A And he walked up to me and I said, "no  
4 problem." And these guys, right away, were caught off  
5 guard of -- you know --

6 Q How did you know these guys?

7 A -- when Enrique came --

8 Q Yes.

9 A -- up and --

10 Q Oh, it was Enrique?

11 A Yeah.

12 Q Okay.

13 A -- asked to see if I was all right.

14 Q Yes?

15 A Whereas everyone else went on hand  
16 movements. So, anyway. He's out there and asking  
17 questions. 'You aren't shit', you know. 'You're a  
18 piece of shit' --

19 Q Well, what office did they have you in at  
20 ICE?

21 A Well, nothing. We're standing out at the --

22 Q In the lobby?

23 A -- ICE -- you know where --

24 Q Out at the building?

25 A No, not at the main building. This is --



1 Q Oh.

2 A -- out at their warehouse -- the  
3 construction warehouse.

4 Q Oh, okay. Let's back up again.

5 A Okay.

6 Q And they took --

7 A It was the guard shack there.

8 Q -- they took you out to the ICE warehouse --

9 A Right.

10 Q -- outside of San Jose?

11 A Yes.

12 Q Okay.

13 A Well, I mean it's in San Jose; it's just  
14 away from the --

15 Q Right.

16 A -- Irazu a ways.

17 Q Right.

18 A And they're on the telephone talking. And  
19 the OIJ guys and the DEA, you know, they're taking  
20 turns getting on the telephone.

21 Q Yes?

22 A And the OIJ guys are shaking their head,  
23 because, I mean, you know -- they know something just  
24 isn't right. And the DEA guy is sitting there trying  
25 to drill me. You know; 'you're bullshit' and on and on



1 and on.

2 Q Riveras?

3 A 'You're not controlled by anybody'; you  
4 know, 'you don't work for anybody'. "Hey, that's cool.  
5 No problem. Let me at a telephone."

6 Q Yes?

7 A You know? "I'll fry your ass with a  
8 telephone."

9 Q Yes?

10 A 'Aw, you can't do that.' I said, "go for  
11 it. Come on; give me any telephone, any telephone.  
12 And let's see who last laughs." You know?

13 Q Yes.

14 A And he's going, and starts getting worried.  
15 You know?

16 Q Yes.

17 A So, he goes back up there -- oh, then he  
18 starts talking about a couple different embassy  
19 operations, you know?

20 Q Like what?

21 A You know, trying to bait me. Like the  
22 passport deal.

23 Q Oh, yes. Right.

24 A And I said, "oh, that was conducted by thi  
25 guy, this guy, this guy". And he's going, 'huh --



1       whoa'. You know, that wasn't out on the street.

2           Q       Yes.

3           A       And then, me flying around in that one  
4       particular airplane -- that's not out on the street.  
5       Okay? The picture with Vesco's airplane; that wasn't  
6       out on the street.

7           Q       But he knew about that?

8           A       He knew about that.

9           Q       Yes?

10          A       And some other things.

11          Q       Yes?

12          A       And that made him extremely nervous. Then  
13       he says, 'get in the fucking car.' So we go in there,  
14       and we go down to OIJ's main office.

15          Q       Yes?

16          A       Right up to the director's office there.  
17       And the director and another CIA agent and some other  
18       guys are all there.

19          Q       Did you know this agent; the CIA agent guy?

20          A       Yeah.

21          Q       Was he a friend of yours?

22          A       Yes.

23          Q       Okay.

24          A       And these guys are, you know, just all  
25       freaked out of what was going on. Because they knew



1 the DEA was dirty.

2 Q Yes.

3 A Okay? And so, I'm sitting there; no  
4 problem, right? And Nevas comes in and he starts  
5 screaming, 'I'm going to blow your fucking ass away'  
6 and 'you son of a bitch'; and he's going on and on and  
7 on.

8 I pointed out, "gee, this is a Canadian  
9 citizen and you, you know, are a representative of the  
10 United States government, threatening a Canadian  
11 citizen". And right away, the other DEA man -- because  
12 all three of them were there -- came out and said, 'oh,  
13 come on Nevas; mellow down, mellow down'.

14 Q Was that Gonzales?

15 A Yeah.

16 Q Sandy Gonzales?

17 A Yeah. And, 'mellow down', you know? And  
18 Nevas is fuming. I'm sitting there with a smile on my  
19 face.

20 Q Yes?

21 A You know? And then, he starts asking me,  
22 'who are you controlled by? Who's this; who's that?'

23 Q Nevas started digging for that?

24 A And I said, "Nevas, no problem." I said,  
25 "you got security clearance; I'll give it to you."



Q Yes?

A "No problem. Dial them motherfuckers; pick up the phone right now and dial them." You know, "go for it." And I'm sitting there provoking him.

Q Yes?

A And he's short tempered anyway. I said, "all you are is a motherfucking Puerto Rican." And that -- that's the key word that makes him trip off.

Q Yes.

A Okay? And I mean, he gets psychotic --

Q Yes.

A -- and just goes bananas. And all this time -- then they're trying to tell the OIJ guys that that weapon was shot; that it was used shooting at people.

Q That weapon you had?

A Yes.

Q What kind was it; what did you have?

A Well, it's a Browning .9 millimeter high-power.

Q I thought it might be.

A Yes, of course.

Q Okay.

A And, anyway. It was, you know, standard weapon, right?

Q Yes.



1           A       It had never been shot, including  
2 ballistics, just for this instance. That someone -- if  
3 someone ever did accuse a person in the field, that the  
4 weapon could be checked and demonstrated that it was  
5 never --

6           Q       Yes?

7           A       -- fired.

8           Q       Yes.

9           A       Okay? And that's how they issue the weapons  
10 we do use.

11          Q       Yes.

12          A       They're never fired. And if they are fired,  
13 we have to turn them in and they re-issue.

14          Q       Yes.

15          A       Okay? And we have long reports.

16          Q       Okay. And where'd you get that from?

17          A       Well, I got permission from --

18          Q       How -- what --

19          A       -- the Agency and a -- let's just say -- an  
20 intelligence officer standing next to me at arms and  
21 explosives said "hombre". And that was it.

22          Q       Yes?

23          A       The guy said 'no problem', stamped and I  
24 paid the tax on the gun; paid the tax for the permits.  
25 And that was it.



1 Q Yes.

2 A There was no bribes, there was nothing  
3 involved.

4 Q Yes?

5 A And he said, you know -- because I did  
6 speak Spanish at all --

7 Q You got in Costa -- you got it down in  
8 Rica?

9 A Oh, yeah; in Costa Rica.

10 Q Okay.

11 A And they said, you know, 'no problem,  
12 you know, 'getting you whatever'. He says, 'do  
13 want an Uzi registered, you come back and see me  
14 I said, "no, no, no." And he said, 'whatever yo  
15 you know, don't get caught with an AK-47, Uzi or  
16 --

17 Q Yes?

18 A -- without it being registered. If y  
19 a gun like that, no problem; I'll do the paperwo  
20 it's yours'.

21 Q Yes.

22 A Okay.

23 MS. REPORTER: Excuse me. I'm sorry  
24 interrupt --

25 MR. SHEEHAN: Audio?



1 MS. REPORTER: We need to flip the  
2 audiotape.

3 MR. SHEEHAN: Okay.

4 MS. REPORTER: We'll go off the record.

5 (OFF THE RECORD)

6 MS. REPORTER: We're back on the record.

7 Q Okay.

8 A So, anyway. That was something that amused  
9 Rob Owen also, later on, all about it.

10 Q Okay. Well, let's get to that. We get to  
11 the stage where Nevas is going nuts on you.

12 A Yeah.

13 Q And you're --

14 A He's threatening me.

15 Q -- you're at the Oijota headquarters --

16 A Right.

17 Q -- in the --

18 A Right.

19 Q -- director's office.

20 A Right.

21 Q Sandy Gonzales is there and Riveras is  
22 there.

23 A Yes.

24 Q And the two OIJ guys?

25 A Yes.



1 Q Okay.

2 A But they're meeting with their boss.  
3 There's a little glass office and all the OIJ guys  
4 stayed in the glass office with the director to stay  
5 out of it.

6 Q Yes?

7 A They didn't want to do anything there.

8 Q Okay.

9 A Then Nevas' fat little punk kid was sitting  
10 there, asking stupid questions. And Nevas kept saying,  
11 'well, these are two major, major criminals that we  
12 just captured' and all this other stuff -- to his kid.

13 Q His child?

14 A Yeah.

15 Q His son.

16 A And his kid says, 'well, who are they?'  
17 'Well, they think they're James Bond' -- you know --  
18 'doing all this work'.

19 Q Yes?

20 A And I just sat there, smiling.

21 Q But he still wouldn't let you make any call?

22 A Oh, of course not.

23 Q All right.

24 A And, then I demanded to go to the embassy.  
25 Then he wouldn't take me to the embassy.



1 Q Yes?

2 A He says, 'we'll go there soon enough; I'm  
3 not done with you yet.' So, then he had the OIJ's come  
4 out and do a ballistics test on my pistol.

5 Q Yes?

6 A And he says, 'now, you sign that' --  
7 authorizing them to --

8 Q Yes?

9 A -- do the ballistics test.

10 Q Yes?

11 A I said, "I have no problem with that." And  
12 'you sign this; this means that you're going to give up  
13 that gun to us'. And I said, "no".

14 Q Yes?

15 A I said, "that's my gun. It's legal, it's  
16 mine." 'You motherfucker; you aren't gonna have this -

17 -

18 Q Yes?

19 A -- and run around the countryside with this  
20 gun'. And I said, "it's legal; do you have a problem  
21 with a legal weapon?" He says, 'I'm going to go and  
22 fuck you up. You're a dead son of a bitch.' You know?

23 And he must have repeated, you know --  
24 'we're going to blow your fucking head off' about 50  
25 times.



1 Q Yes?

2 A You know? I mean, he was furious;

3 absolutely out of control. I mean --

4 Q But he never touched you?

5 A Oh, yeah. He --

6 Q I mean, did --

7 A Oh, yeah.

8 Q -- did he punch you or hit you or just yank  
9 you around?

10 A No -- yeah. Just yanked me around, you  
11 know, and things like that.

12 Q Yes?

13 A And Caldwell -- after he found out he was a  
14 Canadian citizen -- he backed off.

15 Q Yes?

16 A And Brian kept saying, 'I want to see the  
17 Canadian Consulate'. And they refused him.

18 Q Yes?

19 A Okay? And we weren't under arrest; we  
20 weren't under anything. The OIJ guys refused to arrest  
21 us.

22 Q Right.

23 A Refused. Nevas is in there arguing with the  
24 director. And the director is saying --

25 Q Nada.



1 A -- he didn't want any part of this.

2 Q Yes?

3 A He knew what was going on; didn't want any  
4 part of it.

5 Q Yes?

6 A So, anyway. Finally, Nevas packs up and  
7 goes away.

8 Q Did you tell Nevas in any -- during any of  
9 that time, either at the ICE warehouse or in the hotel,  
10 the Irazu hotel originally, or there at OIJ  
11 headquarters that you knew he was dirty? Or --

12 A He, he --

13 Q -- that he was involved in drug stuff?

14 A Yes. He asked -- he said, 'what's this I  
15 hear you -- you're trying to tell people I'm dirty?'  
16 And I said, "whoa". I said, "we have gotten  
17 allegations of that; I have no evidence at this time to  
18 back that up."

19 Q But you did?

20 A Well, of course.

21 Q Oh, okay.

22 A And he -- he's flipping out.

23 Q Yes?

24 A I mean, he is flipping out. And the other  
25 two guys are trying to calm him down.



1 Q Yes?

2 A And the Riveras guy; he's out there getting  
3 aggressive also.

4 Q Yes.

5 A And I'm sitting there, just happy as a clam.  
6 And Gonzales is nice and mellow, and constantly telling  
7 Nevas to calm down --

8 Q Yes?

9 A -- you know? And I -- he would ask me a  
10 question and I would answer it, you know, to Gonzales.  
11 Not paying any attention to Nevas or Riveras --

12 Q Yes?

13 A -- because these guys are starting to both  
14 freak out.

15 Q Yes.

16 A And Gonzales keeps telling them to shut up,  
17 'he's answering your question. You asked him a  
18 question; let him answer it.'

19 Q Yes?

20 A And I'm out there with my telephone book;  
21 oh, no problem. You want "A's" number? Here; this'll  
22 hang your ass.

23 Q Yes?

24 A You know? And I told them that.

25 Q Yes.



1           A     And Gonzales is getting more and more  
2 nervous, you know?

3           Q     Did you -- you gave them LaDage's number?

4           A     Yeah; LaDage's number and --

5           Q     You gave them "A's" number.

6           A     Yeah.

7           Q     Did you give them "M's" number?

8           A     No, he didn't need the number.

9           Q     Okay. Did you --

10          A     He knew who he was; and then we talked about  
11 the NSA members there. And by this time, Gonzales is  
12 freaking out. And he's flipping through my telephone  
13 book and he sees George Bush's number.

14          Q     Yes?

15          A     And that's when he folded it up and handed  
16 it to me, so that Nevas couldn't see it.

17          Q     Yes?

18          A     And he wanted -- I mean --

19          Q     Which number was it to Bush?

20          A     It's just a number --

21          Q     Did it go to Gregg's -- was it to Gregg's  
22 office; that number?

23          A     It just tracks him down.

24          Q     Okay.

25          A     It's a number that trails him. Okay? For



1 Nevas freaked out. Finally, they drove Brian back to  
2 the hotel.

3 Q They let him go?

4 A Yes. Brian almost had a heart attack. I  
5 mean, you know, he had a bad heart anyway. I mean,  
6 he's freaked out; sweat pouring off him. I mean, he's  
7 totally getting upset with this deal. I mean, because  
8 he'd never been --

9 Q Yes?

10 A -- taught or, you know, put in that  
11 situation in training or anything else.

12 Q Yes.

13 A And I mean, he was really under pressure.  
14 And I was sitting back, you know, hey this is a nice  
15 day -- nice office.

16 Q Yes.

17 A You know? And, of course, I was provoking  
18 Nevas. You know?

19 Q So, they bring Caldwell back --

20 A So --

21 Q -- they release Caldwell; let him go back to  
22 the original hotel?

23 A They bring him back to the Irazu Hotel.

24 Q And what did they do with you?

25 A Well, we went down to the embassy. And



1 -- I was given it to -- I was given it to me in case of  
2 something unusual happening that I needed to go and  
3 contact him. And that's --

4 Q Which one of the people gave that; was it  
5 LaDage or --

6 A No, no, no.

7 Q -- "M" or it was an Agency contact?

8 A Just never mind. Never mind; it's -- came  
9 from the top.

10 Q Yes?

11 A Okay? Because he was aware of what I was  
12 doing.

13 Q Bush was?

14 A Yeah.

15 Q Okay.

16 A And it was also relative to that other  
17 situation elsewhere. To another --

18 Q I got you.

19 A -- to another project.

20 Q Where you were out of the country somewhere.

21 A Right. When I left --

22 Q All right.

23 A -- for a vacation.

24 Q Okay.

25 A Anyway, the bottom line was is that -- that



1       Gonzales and Riveras was there. And Nevas went  
2       somewhere else.

3           Q       Yes?

4           A       He was so damned upset --

5           Q       Yes?

6           A       -- with his kid. So, I'm sitting in there  
7       and -- in the DEA. Well, when we first walked into the  
8       embassy, you know, those guys sign in on the staff  
9       book.

10          Q       Yes.

11          A       And I said, "would you like me to sign in?"  
12       'God dammit, don't get funny.'

13          Q       That was Riveras?

14          A       Yeah.

15          Q       Yes.

16          A       I says, "hey, then I'll sign the visitor's  
17       list." 'You son of a bitch, you're not going to sign  
18       nothing'. And the Marine guard, who recognized me from  
19       the company I keep, also knew something was going on  
20       when I didn't sign the book. And I went like that  
21       (indicating) to the Marine guard; and he said, you  
22       know, 'no problem'.

23          Q       Yes?

24          A       Okay. He didn't realize about the other  
25       guys at the embassy there was backing me up. I mean,



1 you know, they were outside.

2 Q Yes?

3 A And they were waiting for us to go through  
4 the sally port to go on.

5 Q Those are DOD guys?

6 A Yeah.

7 Q Yes?

8 A So, we go and take care of biz and go down  
9 into the DEA office.

10 Q Yes?

11 A And these guys are opening my briefcase and  
12 'we're going to make a copy of this' and 'you  
13 cocksucker, we're going to make a copy of that'. And  
14 'I want this' and 'I want that'. And then pretty soon,  
15 a person that I never saw before came in, sat down at  
16 one of the desks, very nice suit, well dressed, which  
17 later I learned that's Rob Owen.

18 Q Yes?

19 A Anyway, he's in there flipping through the  
20 Marine book where it shows the boats that come in and  
21 out of the country.

22 Q This is in the DEA office?

23 A In the DEA office.

24 Q Yes?

25 A And he's just calm, cool, collect; flipping



1 by. And every once in a while, you know, how are you;  
2 you know, just idle chatter. And I'm talking to him  
3 and --

4 Q Did he tell you who he was?

5 A No.

6 Q Just sat there being cool?

7 A Yeah. Just real mellow. Finally, the --  
8 they got to the envelop of receipts to an op -- a job I  
9 did, okay?

10 Q This was inside Costa Rica or outside?

11 A Outside Costa Rica. And the DEA agent  
12 looked at it and the address, and it freaked him out.  
13 And he says, 'what the fuck were you doing there?'

14 Q Okay. And this is where you were in July?

15 A Yes.

16 Q Okay.

17 A I told him I was out on vacation, you know.

18 Q Yes.

19 A Laying on the beach. And he got all upset.  
20 And, you know, that's no way to be and started to open  
21 it. And Rob Owen jumped up and said, 'what is that?'  
22 And I told him, "that's receipts from the hotel."

23 Q Yes?

24 A And he said, 'Jesus Christ. Gather up all  
25 this shit; get him out of here.' And he says,



1 'terrible mistake', and started apologizing.

2 Q Yes?

3 A We then -- Rob Owen says, 'let me take you  
4 back to your hotel. Sorry to inconvenience you.' I  
5 mean, you know, he was really sweating it.

6 Q Yes?

7 A So, I was like, "no big deal." And DEA  
8 complied; put all of my stuff back in the briefcase and  
9 I offered some stuff out of the briefcase, too. You  
10 know, if they wanted to keep it; that they'd get a big  
11 kick out of it.

12 Q Yes?

13 A You know, certain things that would hang  
14 their ass if they had it in their possession. But --

15 Q But they didn't keep anything?

16 A No.

17 Q They didn't xerox anything?

18 A No, they didn't keep anything. Oh, yeah;  
19 they xeroxed a lot of things.

20 Q Okay.

21 A But they stopped xeroxing when Owen freaked  
22 out.

23 Q Okay. But did they have maps -- they had  
24 those maps that located the place that --

25 A Oh, yeah. But that was no big deal; we had



1 more.

2 Q Right.

3 A So, anyway. So, Owen and I start back  
4 there. And he says, 'geez, I'm terribly sorry. It's  
5 not often that we step on someone's toes like this.'

6 Q Did he tell you his name then?

7 A Hang on.

8 Q Okay.

9 A And that it was a terrible mistake and that  
10 it's not, you know, often that they bump into someone  
11 like me. And I said, "well, it happens." And -- I  
12 said, because of the relativity of the situation and  
13 the people involved, you know, things are a little  
14 touchy.

15 And he said, 'yes, and I have to apologize  
16 for it.' And he dropped me off at the hotel. And I'm  
17 stand -- oh, then he asked me about the pistol. He  
18 says if I could help him get the weapons permits, you  
19 know, for people to carry.

20 Q Yes?

21 A And I said, "sure, it's no problem." And he  
22 said, 'well, what did it cost you, a couple thousand  
23 dollars?' And I said, "no, it costs you whatever the  
24 tax is." I -- you know, it's minuscule; it's like \$20  
25 to pay tax or \$30. It's no big deal.



1                   And I said, "you know, I have no problem  
2 with it." You know? "Just document these guys so we  
3 know who they are and I'll take them down, we'll get  
4 them the permits."

5           Q       Yes?

6           A       And, so he was really happy. And I said,  
7 "by the way, what's your name?" He said, "Bob". I  
8 said, "okay, Bob, what's your full name?" He said,  
9 "Robert Owen." And I said, "okay. It was nice to meet  
10 you; maybe we'll see you again."

11                   And that was it; got up out of the car and  
12 walked into the hotel and about 10 people standing  
13 around in the hotel -- we went all down and had a  
14 meeting.

15           Q       These are your DOD guys?

16           A       Yeah.

17           Q       Yes?

18           A       Had a meeting of what went on and who and  
19 how and the whole bit. And --

20           Q       Now, did you call -- who did you call from  
21 that point? Did you call LaDage --

22           A       No --

23           Q       -- or McDaniels or --

24           A       -- it was -- that was like 10, 11 o'clock at  
25 night.



Q Yes.

1 A McDaniels was already aware of what he did -  
2 - of what Nevas did. But then, see, I spent that night  
3 -- Tris come over, and backed me up in the other room  
4 across the hall -- we had some guys in there, and they  
5 were backing Brian up, trying to calm him down. And  
6 then, that afternoon -- or, the following afternoon, we  
7 moved over to Warren's house.

8 Q Yes?

9 A Warren Tris. I did.

10 Q Yes.

11 A Brian stayed. Brian also notified the  
12 Canadian Consulate of the abuse of power that Nevas  
13 made --

14 Q Yes?

15 A -- in threatening him and that.

16 Q Yes.

17 A Now, over at Warren Tris' house, Nevas --  
18 or, excuse me. I can't remember whether it was  
19 Gonzales or Riveras -- calls up and says, 'we want you  
20 to come down to the embassy immediately.'

21 Q To you or --

22 A Yes, to me.

23 Q Okay.

24 A On the telephone at Warren's house.  
25



1 Q Yes.

2 A I said, "great. You know the procedure.  
3 pick up the telephone, call back East, tell them that  
4 you're requesting me. They'll call me and tell me to  
5 go on down."

6 Q Who would he have had to have called?

7 A Well, he could have called a couple of the  
8 agents in the CIA; could have called "A"; he could have  
9 called "M".

10 Q Yes.

11 A He could have called Larry LaDage. Any of  
12 them.

13 Q Because he had all those numbers; you'd  
14 given him those numbers?

15 A Sure. And I would have more than happy to  
16 go down there and sit through another bullshit session.

17 Q Yes.

18 A And then I asked him if they were going to  
19 behave themselves, or was he going to make assholes out  
20 of them. And then he said, 'god dammit, I'm with the  
21 embassy and I'm ordering into the embassy.'

22 And I said, "mister, if I was a civilian  
23 standing down here with a passport, you couldn't do a  
24 fucking thing. You couldn't demand shit from me." I  
25 said, "I am a guest in this country, and you don't



1 demand anything."

2 I said, "I'm asking you to follow  
3 procedures. Just call up there; they know where I'm  
4 at. They'll call me and tell me it's all right to come  
5 in and see you. I don't have a problem with anybody in  
6 the embassy; I have a problem with you guys -- with  
7 your behavior."

8 And then he got all pissed off and says,  
9 'hey, Nevas, come to the phone and listen to this  
10 shit.'

11 Q And that was Riveras that's still talking,  
12 right?

13 A Yeah. And then Nevas picked up the phone  
14 and he said, 'you son of a bitch, I want you down here  
15 immediately. And we're not going to call anybody.'  
16 And then he kept threatening with this cable that he  
17 was going to send.

18 Well, he didn't send any cable.

19 Q Yes?

20 A And I said, "Nevas, you're a motherfucker  
21 and you're not following procedures. I asked you  
22 politely; so fuck you." He said, 'god dammit, we'll be  
23 over there in five minutes.' I said, "fuck you; try to  
24 find me." And I slammed the phone down.

25 Q Yes?



1 A And I -- we split, okay?

2 Q This is from Tris' house?

3 A Yes.

4 Q This is the next day?

5 A They dropped -- the whole bit.

6 Q This is the day after you'd been picked up  
7 and --

8 A Yeah; the day after. They dropped me off at  
9 the bush, right? Up in the jungle.

10 Q Yes?

11 A And so, I'm up in there and waiting --

12 Q Did you have any backup with you, or just  
13 alone?

14 A No, just me.

15 Q Yes?

16 A So, Alex and Tris went to go and pick up  
17 some equipment and another vehicle.

18 Q Yes?

19 A So, they went and got one of the  
20 presidential cars -- you know, the security cars?

21 Q Yes.

22 A And some Uzi's and pistol and that. And  
23 we're going to go up --

24 Q They registered and they went through the  
25 proper procedures, or you don't know?



1           A       No, no, no, no. These belong to the  
2 government of Costa Rica.

3           Q       Yes?

4           A       Okay. The secretary for Oscar Arras gave  
5 Alex McNulte a car, weapons, the whole bit.

6           Q       Ah, got you. Yes.

7           A       Because of the related things.

8           Q       Right.

9           A       So, they says, 'well, let's go up to John's  
10 farm.' So, I went up to the contra --

11          Q       Who was it that recommended that?

12          A       Well, it -- that was my standard procedure  
13 with two different organizations; to go there and catch  
14 an airlift out.

15          Q       "M" had told you that?

16          A       "M" knew it; McDaniels knew it.

17          Q       Yes?

18          A       My contact in Barcelona --

19          Q       Right; that's the Agency guy?

20          A       Right.

21          Q       Okay. They said go to Hull's ranch --

22          A       Right.

23          Q       -- you can get airlifted out --

24          A       Right.

25          Q       -- if things go wrong?



1 A Right.

2 Q Okay.

3 A So, I go up to John's farm. It's the middle  
4 of the night, so we don't dare go on the property. So,  
5 I stay over at one of the contra's -- you know, one of  
6 the -- John's right hand men, called "Doc". And I  
7 stayed at Doc's house that night. And then in the  
8 morning we loaded up and he drove me over to John's.  
9 And so I sat down with John and explained what was  
10 going on and what was happening and that.

11 Q Now, did you tell him about the stuff you  
12 had on Nevas?

13 A Yes.

14 Q Okay.

15 A And, you know, he was, like, you know, not  
16 shocked, but --

17 Q Yes?

18 A -- I mean, he was just playing low-key.

19 Q Did you tell him about Dagoberto Nunez?

20 A Yes.

21 Q And Frigorifico?

22 A I mean, we're talking about the whole damn  
23 thing.

24 Q Okay.

25 A And as far as -- because he asked a bunch of



1 questions and none of it was classified and that, so  
2 what the hell.

3 Q Yes?

4 A So, I said, you know, I have a meeting with  
5 Ed Walsh in Panama coming up in four days.

6 Q Yes?

7 A You know, down at SouthCom. I wasn't  
8 supposed to know about it, you know?

9 Q Yes.

10 A That they were going to come in, tell me at  
11 the last minute; get on the airplane and fly down.

12 Q Yes?

13 A And present my evidence to Ed Walsh.

14 Q And who was Ed Walsh?

15 A Well, Lawrence Walsh, the investigator,  
16 okay? That's who I was supposed to meet in Panama.  
17 But, he said, 'oh, you must mean Ed Walsh from  
18 Security'. And I said, "I don't know who Ed Walsh is."  
19 So, he handed me a Voice of America radio and I radioed  
20 and got a hold of Ed Walsh.

21 Q Yes?

22 A And we said let's do lunch. So, we went up  
23 by John's farm and we did lunch and I met Ed Walsh.

24 Q All right.

25 A But he says, 'no, no, no. Wait, you're --



1 you want Lawrence Walsh, nicknamed "Ed" Walsh'. And I  
2 said, "oh, okay." And he says, 'no, I just deal in  
3 security; I don't have anything to do with cases'. And  
4 he says --

5 Q Okay. The Lawrence Walsh they were talking  
6 about; which one were they talking about?

7 A Well, the Lawrence Walsh the investigator.

8 Q You mean the special prosecutor?

9 A Prosecutor, yes.

10 Q The guy -- the specially appointed special --

11 -  
12 A Yes.

13 Q -- prosecutor on the contra --

14 A Yes.

15 Q -- investigation?

16 A At that time, he was only the investigator;  
17 investigating into allegations.

18 Q Yes?

19 A And, so anyway, this Ed Walsh also knew who  
20 I was, because of, you know, VOA. And, you know, he  
21 knew -- he knew about me, period.

22 Q I'm trying to get this clear, that -- what  
23 was the source of information that you had that you  
24 were supposed to go meet with --

25 A Well, that's -- I was told by McDaniels.



1 Q Yes?

2 A That Lawrence Walsh was tentatively coming  
3 down there, and that I was going to be asked to go down  
4 and meet him at SouthCom.

5 Q Because the -- now, there are three Walshes  
6 involved here. There's a Lawrence Walsh who's the  
7 special prosecutor.

8 A Right.

9 Q There's an Ed Walsh who's the security guy  
10 that you ran into.

11 A Right.

12 Q And there's a guy by the name of Tom Walsh  
13 somewhere.

14 A Right.

15 Q Okay. Now --

16 A Now, that Tom Walsh, in my travels, bumped  
17 into in SouthCom somewhere, how he fits in.

18 Q Okay. But the --

19 A But that's different.

20 Q All right. But Lawrence Walsh -- you see,  
21 Lawrence Walsh wasn't appointed by the Circuit Court of  
22 Appeals until December 18th of 1986.

23 A I was told that it was Lawrence -- or, the  
24 word "Ed" Walsh in Panama. And when I met Ed Walsh  
25 from Security, he told me that 'no, you want to talk to



1 Lawrence Walsh, is the man your going to meet'. And I  
2 said, "oh, that was interesting."

3 Q But he didn't describe who Lawrence Walsh  
4 was?

5 A No, he said he was an investigating these  
6 allegations at that time.

7 Q Oh, okay. Okay.

8 A So, and which conferred with "M", what he  
9 told me about that this person wasn't investigating  
10 these exact same allegations.

11 Q Oh, this is '87. We're into -- no, this is  
12 '86.

13 A No, no; in '86.

14 Q Okay. It was '86; all right.

15 A August '86.

16 Q August of '86, was -- is so you're supposed  
17 to meet some guy -- Ed Walsh.

18 A I mean, just like Kerry was into this deal,  
19 you know, way, way -- you know, picking up information  
20 before all this shit broke.

21 Q Yes?

22 A So, I mean -- you know. Just like Walsh --  
23 he was picking up things is what I've been told. But,  
24 anyway --

25 Q So, there's this Ed Walsh, anyway, that you



1 Lawrence Walsh, is the man your going to meet'. And I  
2 said, "oh, that was interesting."

3 Q But he didn't describe who Lawrence Walsh  
4 was?

5 A No, he said he was an investigating these  
6 allegations at that time.

7 Q Oh, okay. Okay.

8 A So, and which conferred with "M", what he  
9 told me about that this person wasn't investigating  
10 these exact same allegations.

11 Q Oh, this is '87. We're into -- no, this is  
12 '86.

13 A No, no; in '86.

14 Q Okay. It was '86; all right.

15 A August '86.

16 Q August of '86, was -- is so you're supposed  
17 to meet some guy -- Ed Walsh.

18 A I mean, just like Kerry was into this deal,  
19 you know, way, way -- you know, picking up information  
20 before all this shit broke.

21 Q Yes?

22 A So, I mean -- you know. Just like Walsh --  
23 he was picking up things is what I've been told. But,  
24 anyway --

25 Q So, there's this Ed Walsh, anyway, that you



1 understand you're supposed to meet?

2 A Right.

3 Q And so, somehow you get put in touch through  
4 John Hull --

5 A Right.

6 Q -- with an Ed Walsh, but it's the wrong one?

7 A Right.

8 Q And he says that, no, there's a Lawrence  
9 Walsh you're supposed to meet with.

10 A Right.

11 Q But he didn't describe -- he just said he  
12 was an investigator?

13 A Right.

14 Q Okay. So, and you're supposed to meet him  
15 at SouthCom?

16 A Right.

17 Q All right. So, you told this Ed Walsh that,  
18 obviously, he's the wrong guy.

19 A Umm hmm.

20 Q You did lunch and then what happened?

21 A Well, you know, I checked his I.D., too.

22 Q Yes?

23 A And he showed me and the whole bit --

24 Q Who was he security for?

25 A Never mind. He's just up there. So --



2 A He was serving -- no, he was serving a  
3 purpose.

4 Q Okay, but --

5 A He was a good guy, not a bad guy.

6 Q I know, but did --

7 A Okay.

8 Q -- did Hull put you in touch with him?

9 A Yes.

10 Q Okay. Through this Voice of America radio  
11 thing?

12 A Yes.

13 Q Okay. So, you went and talked to him,  
14 discovered he was the wrong guy?

15 A Yes.

16 Q And then what happened?

17 A He said, 'I've heard of your work; I know  
18 who you are. It's a great' -- you know, 'keep up the  
19 good work'.

20 Q Yes?

21 A And left it at that. We parted ways. And a  
22 couple newspaper reporters showed up on John Hull's  
23 farm and that's when Ed Walsh and I went around one of  
24 the buildings and, you know, stayed out of view.

25 Q Yes?



DEPOSITIONS  
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1 A But, that's about where it's at.

2 Q Okay, but what -- so you're on Hull's fa

3 A Yeah.

4 Q This is the first day you were there.

5 A Yeah.

6 Q You stayed at this "Doc's" place --

7 A Yes.

8 Q -- you were there in the morning; you t  
9 with Hull for a while.

10 A Yes.

11 Q You briefed him on what you discovered  
12 Costa Rica?

13 A Well, yes. Mostly. But --

14 Q Okay. And then he hooked you up with t  
15 other Ed Walsh?

16 A Right.

17 Q And then you go back to Hull's ranch?

18 A Right.

19 Q Okay. And then what happened?

20 A And then we're -- then I go and take a  
21 and that's where it was. I got woke up -- it was  
22 two or three in the morning -- and -- excuse me -  
23 or three in the morning and -- with the gunfire.  
24 hit the floor and trying to think of what to do.

25 Q Yes?



1           A       You know, because I knew that the -- John's  
2 security people didn't know, really, who I was.

3           Q       Yes?

4           A       And I knew I was perfectly safe at the  
5 guesthouse --

6           Q       Yes.

7           A       -- because they were -- they protect the  
8 whole compound.

9           Q       Yes.

10          A       So, this guy kept yelling something in  
11 Spanish. So, I opened up the door real slow and stuck  
12 my head out. And I saw a lot of people standing around  
13 the guesthouse. And he motioned for me to come out.  
14 So, I came out and he's yelling in Spanish a whole  
15 bunch of things. And I recognized the uniform as the  
16 Rural Guard, but that was it.

17          Q       Yes?

18          A       And he's trying to make me go up the steps  
19 to the main house. And I'm sitting there standing  
20 there. And he keeps getting madder and madder, and  
21 he's all drunk. And he goes and hits me in the back of  
22 the head, the first time, with the AK-47. And I reach  
23 up there and fucking draw blood, and I turned around  
24 and, you know, this guy's serious. You know?

25          Q       Yes?



1 A So, I -- no problem. And I walk up to the  
2 sidewalk.

3 Q All right.

4 A Okay? And then half way up, he hits me  
5 again and knocks me right down to the ground. You  
6 know? And I'm real dizzy and I pick myself back up and  
7 walk up the sidewalk. And, now, all of the contra guys  
8 and all the DIS agents and the CIA agents are all  
9 around the Rural Guard guys.

10 Q Did you recognize Agency guys there?

11 A Yeah. And the Rural Guard guys are shitting  
12 their pants and they've got their weapons down. All  
13 except this one guy.

14 Q Yes?

15 A Who was trying to provoke me. And all these  
16 other Rural Guard guys are trying to be real mellow,  
17 trying to explain to the other guys, you know,  
18 nothing's going to happen. You know, keep calm. And  
19 the contra guys have drawn down on these other guys.

20 Q Yes?

A The DIS agents are in there arguing with  
them, what's going on. And they're saying they don't  
know anything; they were just told to load up in the  
truck and come out to the farm.

Q Well, what -- were there DIS guys that were



2 A Yes. ... group came?

3 Q So, it's a Rural Guard group --

4 A Right.

5 Q -- with this drunk guy that's whacking you?

6 A Right. And, now -- later, what I found out  
7 is that the Rural Guard guys were all from San Carlos.

8 Q Yes?

9 A And anyway, we have a big conversation; John  
10 comes out. I said, "John --

11 Q But you can't speak Spanish?

12 A No, not fluently but -- John comes out; I  
13 said, "John, what's going on?" And the guy hits me  
14 again, and tells me to shut up. And John is getting  
15 upset, you know, because he doesn't know what's going  
16 on.

17 Q Yes?

18 A Okay. And his DIS man comes up and says --  
19 walks up behind me and says, 'relax', you know, 'I'm a  
20 friend of yours. Just go and stay cool and we've got  
you backed up'. And I said, "all right, fine."

So, I'm playing, you know, real mellow and  
all the contra guys were getting more and more upset  
with the Rural Guard guys. Because they are the same  
guys that came and harassed John. And the contra guys



1 were ready to do the Rural Guard guys right there.

2 And that's when the DIS agent told everyone,  
3 you know, 'just stop'. You know, 'go back to your  
4 posts'. And there had to be, easily, 20 contra, DIS --  
5 and DIS agents surrounding these Rural Guard guys.

6 Q And how many of those guys were there?

7 A Oh, about 10 or 15.

8 Q Yes?

9 A And they were shitting their pants, you  
10 know?

11 Q Yes?

12 A And all their guns were down and all the  
3 contra guys were ready to pull the trigger. So, they  
4 had the draw on them.

5 Q Yes?

6 A Anyway, so I get loaded up into this Isuzu  
Trooper, in the back.

Q Yes?

A Right? And this old man gets in there with  
me; a Rural Guard guy. And, you know, in the jump  
seats in the back end of it --

Q Yes.

A I mean, this is narrow.

Q Yes.

A And he keeps saying "tranquillo". You know,



1 mellow out; no problem. And, so we're in this Isuzu  
2 Trooper, and it's nice. I mean, you know, there's  
3 stereo and the whole bit in it --

4 Q Yes?

5 A -- which is a little abnormal for Costa  
6 Rica.

7 Q Yes.

8 A So, we drive into San Carlos. And rather  
9 than right to San Jose, they turn in and there's a  
10 church on the north side of San Carlos. They pulled in  
11 there, and out jumps from the troop carrier all the  
12 Rural Guard guys from San Carlos and in comes a whole  
13 bunch of troops, jumps in the carrier from San Jose.  
14 And Barrantes gets in the truck.

5 Q Which Barrantes is this? This is Harry  
6 Barrantes, now; or, Luis Barrantes?

7 A I think it's Luis Barrantes.

8 Q All right.

9 A Okay? From narcotics.

10 Q Yes?

11 A And he gets in there. And, he's mumbling  
12 and chuckling, you know. Big joke.

13 Q He gets in the car with you?

14 A Oh, yeah.

15 Q In the little Isuzu thing?



1 A And he's driving.

2 Q Yes?

3 A And the other guy that's all liquored up;  
4 he's sitting in the passenger seat.

5 Q Yes.

6 A So, we're going down the mountain road and  
7 all this time, this -- the old man's kicking me and,  
8 you know, making me, you know, look out the back.  
9 Because the truck's disappear on that mountain road  
10 coming down there by Narango.

11 Q Yes?

12 A And he's, you know, trying to hand me the  
13 AK. And, you know, and I keep waving him off.

14 Q Yes.

15 A So, anyway, the -- from what happens there  
16 is, Barrantes was going to go down to the OIJ office  
17 and the Rural Guard guy -- you know, the drunk one --  
18 he hit him and said, 'no, turn here.' So, he turned  
19 here and Barrantes didn't know where he was going. So  
20 the guy showed him where to go. And we go into a Rural  
21 Guard holding facility in the south part of San Jose.

22 Q Yes?

23 A And, you know, they take all my gear and  
24 that and they throw it all down. They throw me into  
25 this little dog -- well, it's, you know, a cell, but



1 it's like a dog cage.

2 Q Yes?

3 A You know? And, anyway, it's right back by  
4 the communications room. And time goes on and everyone  
5 comes by, big joke. And I'm up there with my feet  
6 against the wall, you know, trying to catch a nap. You  
7 know, it's no big deal. So --

8 Q It was a fairly big deal; I mean it was --

9 A Oh, no.

10 Q All right. Because --

11 A It -- so, everything's just running dandy.  
12 And these guys in the com room keep coming by and  
13 checking on me, right?

14 Q Yes?

15 A And finally I says, well, you know -- and I  
16 started saying, "please call Alex McNulte at the  
17 president's house". And these guys are going, 'right',  
18 you know?

19 Q Yes.

20 A And I kept repeating it over and over and  
21 over in Spanish. And finally one of the contra guys  
22 that patrols the southern front came in there,  
23 recognized me. And, you know, he's dressed in full  
24 fatigues and that.

25 Q Yes?



1           A       And I told him. And he goes in and yells at  
2 the radio man to call Alex McNulte.

3           Q       Yes.

4           A       So, Alex isn't in. Now, these guys are  
5 starting to shit in their pants, okay?

6           Q       About what time is this, now?

7           A       This is starting to be in the morning; like  
8 seven in the morning --

9           Q       Yes?

10          A       -- six in the morning.

11          Q       Yes.

12          A       That, you know, Alex McNulte really is --  
13 works at the president's house.

14          Q       Yes?

15          A       And so, they're starting to, you know, talk  
16 and have little rumors going. Then, they call the DIS  
17 agent. You know, the office at DIS?

18          Q       Yes?

19          A       Because they couldn't get a hold of McNulte.  
20 And said, 'hey, there's some bad hombre that, you know,  
21 they brought in last night. They don't know anything  
22 about him; they just dropped him.' So, the DIS agents  
23 had got the call from John Hull's farm, also, that I  
24 was there. So they came down there with machine guns  
25 and the whole bit; three of them.



1 Q Yes?

2 A And kept them pointing at the Rural Guard  
3 guys. And the Rural Guard guys are saying, 'what's  
4 going on?'

5 Q Yes?

6 A And the one guy says -- well, you know,  
7 'Richard, how are you doing?' And I said, "aw, no  
8 problem." He says, 'let's go grab your stuff and go.'  
9 And he said, 'make sure all your stuff is there.' And  
10 you know, they pilfered a bunch of stuff, you know?

11 Q Yes?

12 A And I was like, "well, some things are  
13 missing; the money, a bunch of other stuff."

14 Q Yes?

15 A But I just said, "fuck it. Let's go." So,  
16 all these Rural Guard guys are sitting there and they  
17 don't understand. And all this time when I was looking  
18 through my stuff, there started to be quite a few of  
19 them. And the DIS guys made them move down into where  
20 the cells were. And one of the DIS guys held a machine  
21 gun on them.

22 Q Yes?

23 A And, you know, everyone's going, 'what the  
24 fuck is going on?' You know?

25 Q Yes.



1           A       So, anyway, the DIS guy says, 'let's go.'  
2       So, we get in the car and they says, 'well, you know,  
3       you were compared to the biggest bandito that has ever  
4       hit Costa Rica'. And I said, "gee, I'm flattered."

5           And 'they said to bring down all this  
6       armament and all these troops and that. And then we  
7       got this other call from John's ranch and, you know, we  
8       found out it was you. So, we come down to get you.'

9           So, I went over there and they got me a bunk  
10      in their bunkhouse. You know, in their personnel  
11      bunkhouse?

12       Q       And it was at Hull's ranch?

13       A       No, no. This is DIS.

14       Q       Okay.

15       A       And, you know, showed me the kitchen and  
16      introduced me to the cooks and that, to come in and eat  
17      whenever I wanted; come and go, you know --

18       Q       Yes?

19       A       -- and the whole bit. So -- and took a  
20      shower in the staff shower room. I mean, you know --

21       Q       Yes?

22       A       -- they treated me well. And then we  
23      started talking about all of the things that were going  
24      on and stuff. And, you know, they weren't aware of a  
25      lot of them, so I brought them up to speed.



1 Q Yes.

2 A You know, about the labs and stuff. So --

3 Q So you briefed them on these things that you  
4 had discovered in your investigation?

5 A Yeah. So, then I seen a package come; it  
6 said from the Department of Justice and all this other  
7 shit. And they pulled it out. And it was copies --  
8 but it wasn't all the copies -- from Nevas. Okay?  
9 Nevas was trying to make me look like the bad guy.

10 Q Yes?

11 A Well, by this time, that -- these guys had  
12 tried calling Alex McNulte and couldn't get a hold of  
13 him. And the guy came in and asked me about Castille.

14 Q Yes.

15 A You know, and I --

16 Q Who came in and asked you about Castille?

17 A Well, the head of DIS. And I wouldn't  
18 acknowledge it. But, I gave him another word, and he  
19 knew what that word meant. So, he backed off and said  
20 'no problem', you know? And --

21 Q What do you mean -- was it his real name?

22 A No, no, no, no, no.

23 Q Oh.

24 A This word is a synonym. So -- and he had no  
25 problem with that.



1 Q Yes?

2 A So, you know, everything was just going  
3 great and we're talking about, you know, the labs and  
4 different things, different people and that. And these  
5 guys are saying 'shit man, we should go out there and  
6 knock them down'.

7 And I said, "well, you know, I might get  
8 called back. If I don't get called back, you know,  
9 I'll stay down here and, you know, help direct you in  
10 there."

11 Q Yes?

12 A You know, because a lot of the places that  
13 we had people in there, and have exact directions on  
14 those jungle roads. So, they got all excited about  
15 that and then, Tambs forced DIS to have me deported.

16 Q Yes?

17 A You know, at the bequest of Nevas. So,  
18 these guys said, 'you know, we don't know what's going  
19 on. They want to deport you; we're going to take you  
20 down there to Immigration, drop your passport off.  
21 They'll get it all organized and then you're free to go  
22 back to the hotel'. I said, "okay, fine."

23 So, they go through that -- the guy at  
24 Immigration is going -- sitting there. And, the main  
25 man calls me down there and says, you know, 'who are



1 you?' And I said, "oh, it doesn't make any  
2 difference."

3 He said, 'what are you doing here?' And you  
4 know. I said, "just doing research that I was ordered  
5 to do." He said, 'well, you need permission to be in  
6 this country to do research.' I said, "great; no  
7 problem." And he said, 'well, let me tell you what'.  
8 He says, 'I understand what you're doing because I  
9 talked to some of our people'.

10 I said, "all right." He says, 'I'm not  
11 going to deport you like they're requesting me to do.  
12 I'm not going to put that in that passport. But, if  
13 you're in trouble and you have no where else to go,  
14 you're more than welcome to get -- you know -- step out  
15 of Customs, you know, so you're in international free  
16 zone -- and turn around and come right back. And I'll  
17 be more than happy; I'll personally go down there and  
18 invite you back to the country'.

19 Q Yes?

20 A Okay? Meanwhile, there's this other person  
21 there from --

22 Q You don't remember who that guy was?

23 A Well, no --

24 Q He was the head of immigration?

25 A -- it's the head of immigration.



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Q In Costa Rica?

A Yeah. And the guy --

Q Is he Costa Rican or American?

A No, Costa Rican.

Q Costa Rican.

A Now, the American guy standing there says, 'what do you know about the radio station up there?' And I said, "hey, you know, we all know." And he goes, 'you son of a bitch'. And grabbed his keys and started shaking a VOA emblem in front of my eyes.

Q Yes?

A I said, "fuck you", you know? I know, he knows, everyone knows. "Fuck you; get out of my face."

Q And what was it you knew about it?

A Never mind. That's none -- if you don't know, it's none of your business.

Q Well, we do know.

A Okay.

Q But I just wanted to know what --

A Just -- it's classified information, number one. Number two, I'm not going -- you know, it's just -- it's none of -- it's history.

Q But it has to do with John Hull, though, too.

A It's none of my business. Anyway, so --



1 Q So, you tell him anyway that you know about  
2 the radio station and he goes freaking out?

3 A Yeah, I mean, you know, he already knew  
4 that. He knew I knew.

5 Q Yes.

6 A But he was just trying to provoke me to say  
7 something in front of the Costa Rican official. And  
8 the Costa Rican official is fat, dumb and happy; and  
9 he's like, you know, what's going on.

10 Q Yes?

11 A And I'm sitting there, you know, it's no big  
12 deal; and this guy freaks out. So the Costa Rican  
13 official from immigration there also reiterates, you  
14 know, 'if I can be of help, let me know'. You know?  
15 'Are you in trouble?' Or whatever.

16 And I said, "no, no. No problem; we got it  
17 handled." So, it -- I picked up the telephone and met  
18 with Tris and all the other guys and by that time,  
19 there was some more DOD guys that they flew in,  
20 involving in this thing, to pick up where I left off.

21 And so I met with all them and picked up the  
22 phone, made my travel arrangements and got my ticket  
23 within an hour and a half. Went down, got my passport,  
24 because you show the ticket and they hand you the  
25 passport and you're ready to go.



1 Q Yes?

2 A And, anyway, I jumped the airplane. And the  
3 reservations are for L.A. and it stops in Mexico City.  
4 And in Mexico City, I jump off the airplane and go up  
5 and get my baggage pulled off the airplane. You know,  
6 this is after everyone's off and, you know, the thing's  
7 just ready to leave.

8 And so, I made a call to one of the people  
9 inside the airport and he went down there and made sure  
10 it happened. And then I went over to a hotel, spent  
11 the night in the hotel, made my new reservations to go  
12 into Denver from Mexico City. And jumped on the  
13 airplane and went to Denver.

14 When I got to Denver, went through Customs -  
15 -

16 Q Did anybody come down to help you get out of  
17 there?

18 A Didn't need to.

19 Q Okay. So you came out alone?

20 A Yeah.

21 Q Okay.

22 A And -- I mean, down at the airport, yes.

23 There was a lot of people at Costa Rica, including John  
24 Hull and the DIS agent.

25 Q Yes?



1           A       And -- well, let me go back on that.

2           Q       Okay.

3           A       What John Hull told me is, is that he  
4 apologized. He didn't realize that he shouldn't have  
5 called the embassy. Okay?

6           Q       Yes.

7           A       And I said, "well, you know, that's all  
8 right John, you know. It's all over; I'm fine,  
9 everyone's fine. And we'll continue." And he said,  
10 'well, I want to have a friend of mine call you when  
11 you get to where you're going and try to work things  
12 out.' And I said, "well, that's fine."

13                   But, he said, 'I also want you to know what  
14 happened with Nevas.' And I said, "what's that?" And  
15 he said, 'well, it got to DEA that you were on the  
16 farm. And that this other DEA agent walked in and  
17 Nevas, Tambs, CIA and a Marine guard were all sitting  
18 in this room. And he come running in and said  
19 "Williams is on Hull's farm".'

20                   And Nevas blew up and started yelling and  
21 screaming and saying I should've killed the son of a  
22 bitch when I had a chance. And I mean, he got wild.  
23 And Tambs demanded -- you know, asked first -- and then  
24 demanded to find out what was going on.

25                   And Nevas refused to tell Tambs what was



1 going on. And, you know, it was part of Nevas' e  
2 trip, because the way the embassy was being run,  
3 was second seat behind Nevas during this period.  
4 he wouldn't tell Tambs anything; he took off and  
5 those great arrangements.

6 But, anyway, when I got back here, I n  
7 through Customs no problem.

8 Q Yes?

9 A I knew the word, you know, computer w  
10 And they red-tagged all my gear, you know, not to  
11 search it. Brought it in, you know, because the  
12 documents and maps and, you know, load numbers a  
13 everything else. And I brought it in and went u  
14 that was it.

15 Talked to Rod.

16 Q So you go to your attorney?

17 A Yes. I talked to Rod and he said, 'w  
18 kind of figured you were on your way back.' He  
19 'the White House has been calling.'

20 Q Yes?

21 A I said, "geez, anybody important?" I  
22 'well, no. Robert Owen called numerous times, I  
23 to speak to you.' And I -- and Rod said that,  
24 he's not around.' And that Owen told Rod Snow  
25 "well, don't worry. He's on his way," you know



that's where it was left at.

1 Q Did Rod tell you what affiliation Rob Owen  
2 related he was connected with?

3 A Oh, from the White House.

4 Q Yes.

5 A So, and when I saw Rod, he goes 'gee, you  
6 know, the White House called. That's a hell of an  
7 introduction from compared to the last time.' And we  
8 both started laughing.

9 Q Yes?

10 A So, anyway, the -- Owen made numerous calls.  
11 Rod refused to answer them until we got done and sat  
12 and talked. Then, Rod finally talked to Owen and found  
13 out who he was. You know, and confirmed who he was.

14 Q Who did Rob Owen say he was to Rod?

15 A From the White House. From the NSC.

16 Q Did he mention a thing called the Institute  
17 on Terrorism and Sub-national Conflict?

18 A No, not at first.

19 Q Okay. So, he talked -- just referred to  
20 himself as from the White House?

21 A Right.

22 Q Okay.

23 A And then they wanted to make a deal.

24 Q Who did? Rob Owen?



1           A       Rob Owen wanted to make a deal with myself.  
2       And wanted to talk to me direct.

3           Q       Yes?

4           A       And that they would clean up the dirt from  
5       1983 --

6           Q       Yes.

7           A       -- and, in trade for what I knew.

8           Q       Okay. So Rob Owen wanted you to communicate  
9       to Rob Owen what it was you had found out about what  
10      was going on in Costa Rica, and offered to get the  
11      charges -- the conviction of you earlier in 1983 set  
12      aside?

13          A       Yes.

14          Q       Okay. Now, did he say that to you directly,  
15      or through Rod Snow?

16          A       Through Rod Snow.

17          Q       Okay. And then what happened?

18          A       Well, then -- at the time, I refused to talk  
19      to him. Because it didn't ring any bells, you know? I  
20      didn't realize it was the same guy that gave me a ride  
21      at the embassy.

22          Q       Yes?

23          A       So, I just -- I told Rod, "fuck, I don't  
24      know who the guy is. Let's qualify him." You know?

25          Q       Yes.



1           A       So, Rod did some researches and probes and  
2       that. And, we talked to Bruce Black --

3           Q       The assistant U.S. Attorney in Denver?

4           A       -- the assistant U.S. Attorney in Denver.

5           Q       And was he on your case -- your '83 case?

6           A       No, no. This was before that. Before his  
7       time.

8           Q       Okay. So --

9           A       Now, you got to realize that --

10          Q       -- the '83 case was before Ron --

11          A       Yeah.

12          Q       -- before Black -- Bruce Black was there?

13          A       -- part of my employment in that, of course,  
14       included that '83 deal be put to bed and swept under  
15       the rug like they said it was.

16          Q       Yes. We're going to talk about that after  
17       lunch. I just want to -- what I'm trying to do is, I'm  
18       trying to get the handle on what all the mechanics are  
19       that happened. Then we'll get your background and --

20          A       Right.

21          Q       So --

22          A       Anyway, the --

23          Q       So, Rob Owen is still offering you this  
24       deal?

25          A       Right.



1 Q Offering to do away with this '83 --

2 A Right.

3 Q -- conviction if you'll tell Rob Owen what  
4 you learned about in Costa Rica?

5 A Right.

6 Q Okay.

7 A And he's trying to make a deal a day,  
8 dropping North's name and Singlaub and Secord. Trying  
9 to make Rod Snow realize the importance of it.

10 Q And what did Rob -- Rod Snow say to you was  
11 being communicated to him?

12 A Well, exactly what I'm telling you.

13 Q Yes?

14 A Okay? Now, the other side of it is that  
15 Bruce Black went and said, 'well, Jesus, if you were  
16 working for the Agency, you know, give me some names  
17 that I can run and check.' Okay? And I gave him some  
18 names. And the first time, they came back they were  
19 there.

20 Q They were there?

21 A These people existed.

22 Q Okay. So, he got all the names and found  
23 out that they existed. But he didn't talk to them  
24 direct?

25 A Right. But the -- let's see, was it the



1 first time or the second time? He checked one time --  
2 maybe it was the first time and they weren't there, and  
3 the second time they were.

4 Anyway Rod told me this, you know, because  
5 we couldn't speak directly to Bruce, technically. So  
6 --

7 Q You couldn't? Or --

8 A I couldn't speak -- sit down with Bruce  
9 Black.

10 Q Okay. Now --

11 A That would be a violation.

12 Q Okay. What -- now, let's try back now. You  
13 come back; you come to Denver.

14 A Right.

15 Q You contact Rod Snow.

16 A Right.

17 Q Rod Snow tells you in the first telephone  
18 communication that Rob Owen has been calling him?

19 A Yes. Well, I see Rod. I --

20 Q You go right to his place?

21 A -- go right into his office, from the  
22 airport.

23 Q Okay. You go right into his office from the  
24 airport. Okay. And he tells you about these calls  
25 from Rob Owen?



1           A       Yes.

2           Q       And whose idea was it to try to establish  
3 some form of communication with Bruce Black, the  
4 assistant U.S. Attorney?

5           A       Well, Rod was.

6           Q       Okay. And what did he say the purpose of  
7 that was?

8           A       Well, the purpose of it was to get resolved  
9 the 1983 incident involving all this -- the fucking  
10 intelligence business, you know?

11          Q       Yes.

12          A       And that Rod said that, you know, back in  
13 '83, he had his doubts and that. But he told Bruce  
14 Black, you know -- the White House doesn't call me for  
15 nothing at the office.

16          Q       Yes?

17          A       You know? And frantically trying to talk to  
18 him.

19          Q       Yes. So, you're back in here. You're back  
20 in --

21          A       So, I'm back in here and we're sitting there  
22 talking. And Bruce Black says, 'well, we need more to  
23 go on in order to drop the 1983 case.' So, the bottom  
24 line was, Rod says, 'well, do you think you can get  
25 these guys to talk on tape, over the telephone?'



1 MS. REPORTER: Excuse me. We need to go off  
2 the record and change audiotapes.

3 MR. SHEEHAN: Okay. Flip the audio.

4 (OFF THE RECORD)  
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DEPOSITIONS  
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WITNESS

Joseph Kelso

EXAMINED BY

Mr. Sheehan

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